

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thursday, November 24, 2011

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Trader's calls for on-street parking

FRESH CALLS have been made for on-street parking in Oswestry to help shoppers and boost trade.

Yossi Gliksmann, a town trader, believes creating on-street parking could help businesses in the current economic climate.

Mr Gliksmann, from Upstairs Downstairs in Leg Street, said traders were doing well in the current climate but he felt allowing people closer access to shops could help increase trade.

His comments come after Shropshire Councillor Keith Barrow revealed last week that the unitary authority had commissioned a survey into Oswestry's traffic flow.

Mr Gliksmann said he believed it would be positive for the town to have a one-way system which could allow on-street parking opportunities.

"I think if you are looking at things to improve, regarding town accessibility and looking for measures to encourage people into the town, you need easier access to shops. This would be better for trading."

He believed if the on-street parking was given a time limit, for example 40 minutes, shoppers would respect. "I don't think it would be abused. I think people would respect the short term parking."

Mum on TV show to talk about diet

A WELSHPOOL woman who cares full time for her disabled child was featured on national TV yesterday morning on ITV's *Lorraine* show.

Teresa Gannon, 37, was featured on the 'Little Black Dress Diet' section with the show's fitness guru after declaring her determination to slim down for her parent's 40th wedding anniversary this weekend.

Filmed a month back in London, Teresa gave an emotional introduction of how she had put on weight looking after her three-year old daughter.

Teresa hopes her appearance will encourage other women unhappy with their weight to tackle it head on.

Call for WAG to intervene over plan for dairy

CAMPAIGNERS opposed to a 'super dairy' near Welshpool are calling on the Welsh Assembly to intervene.

Members of the Campaign Against Leighton Farm expansion (CALFe) are angry that Powys County Council gave the development the thumbs up despite their claims it conflicts the Powys Unitary Development Plan

and causes environmental problems.

They are now lobbying the Assembly by demanding that they call in the planning decision, which allows the multi-million pound development for 1,000 cows to be built next to Leighton Primary School.

CALFe campaigner and local resident, Holly Dyer, claimed: "This really was an

incomprehensible decision by the planning committee.

"Every piece of advice presented at the planning meeting recommended that the proposal be rejected."

"A super dairy of this size and scale placed in a small village, right next to a school, is unprecedented in the UK and it is clear that it will have a catastrophic effect on the

landscape, environment and the local community.

"We are bewildered as to why the committee have chosen to ignore the advice of the experts and pass the proposal subject to a couple of small points."

Council planning officers recommended to the planning committee that the proposal be refused.

But following a dramatic meeting, when both sides of the argument were heard, councillors gave it the green light.

Should the Welsh Assembly Government agree to call in the application, they would then take the decision on whether the proposed development should go ahead or not.

Partner's killer faces long term in prison

AN OSWESTRY man admitted the manslaughter of his partner when he appeared before Stafford Crown Court on Monday.

Brian Woodmass, 59, will face a substantial custodial sentence when he is sentenced for the manslaughter of Jillian Louise Nevitt, a judge has warned. Psychiatrists will now have to decide whether he should be deemed a danger to society.

Woodmass, of Orchard Street, Oswestry, pleaded not guilty to murder but guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Ms Nevitt, a 45-year-old mother and grandmother, was killed on December 14 last year. No details of how she died were revealed in the hearing. But Judge Simon Tonkings said: "Jill Nevitt was not only killed, but killed in a very brutal way."

He said Woodmass must expect a custodial term of some considerable length when he is sentenced on December 22.

He called for a future psychiatric report to consider whether Woodmass should be deemed 'dangerous'.

● See Page 2

Roads close for parade

ROADS IN Oswestry town centre will be closed through the town's festive celebration weekend with some changes to bus timetables.

The fun begins with Oswestry Christmas Live on December 2, closely followed by the Rotary Club's Christmas Parade on December 3, culminating in the Hope House Santa run and walk at 5pm on December 4.

Thousands of people are expected to pour into the town helping the local economy and raising money for good causes.

Cafe opened by support group

A NEW CAFE will open in Oswestry tomorrow, Friday, to give help and support to people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their carers.

The cafe, set up by the Alzheimer's Society and volunteers, will be open once a month in the Walford Davies suite at the Guildhall on the Bailey Head.

FEARS LOAN SHARKS STRIKING IN TOWN

by Sue Austin

LOAN SHARKS could be operating in Oswestry in the run-up to Christmas, cashing in on those who are struggling to make ends meet.

A 24-hour helpline has been set up to help those caught up in illegal money lending and a specialist team visited the town yesterday to talk to those who may come into contact with victims.

The Government-funded England Illegal Money Lending team said Oswestry was likely to have loan sharks plying for trade on housing estates in the town.

It is urging landlords, council staff and those who work with potential victims to watch out for the signs that someone may be caught up in money lending.

And it said loan sharks may pose as friends, only to turn nasty when people couldn't keep up loan repayments.

The head of the team Mr Tony Quigley said: "We want to warn people that this is just the time of year when they may fall victim to loan sharks but reassure them that there is help available."

"If they have borrowed money they have not committed a crime and they will not get into trouble. It is, however, illegal to loan money without a licence."

Horrific

"People are under no obligation to repay the loans, they do so through fear. We have heard some horrific tales of lives that have been ruined by loan sharks."

He said figures showed an estimated 310,000 households turned to an illegal money lender this year, with 20 per cent of victims originally taking out the loan to fund the festive season.

"Illegal money lending is a despicable crime that will not be tolerated. As Christmas approaches we would like to make especially clear that no matter how desperate you are these criminals should always be avoided as they will make your life a misery."

"There are alternatives available. Contact your local credit union."

"If you believe you or someone you know is involved with a loan shark please call our team in confidence on 0300 555 2222."

"Our lines are open 24/7, even throughout the festive period and people will be able to talk direct to one of the team. If we can stop just one person from turning to a loan shark this Christmas we have made a difference."

About 40 landlords, housing officers and other people involved in the community attended yesterday's sessions, which also include talks from members of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Mr Quigley said the team had come across victims who had repaid £5,000 on a £150 loan and one who took out a £250 loan when he was 17 and ended up paying £90,000 to the loan shark.



Councillor Betty Gull getting ready to start the countdown to Christmas by turning on Oswestry's lights. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Festive feeling comes to town

OSWESTRY'S Christmas lights were officially switched on yesterday, beginning the town's countdown to Christmas.

Choirs from the primary schools at Gobowen, Woodside and Bellan House sang carols and seasonal songs in Festival Square to crowds of shoppers before Councillor Betty Gull performed the official switch on.

This year saw Oswestry Town Council take over full responsibility for the Christmas lights.

Previously the role had been shared between the town and the borough and then Shropshire Council.

Oswestry has always been praised for its impressive festive lighting across the town.

The Christmas festivities continue at the beginning of December with the Christmas Live late night shopping, the Rotary Club's Christmas procession and the Hope House Hospice Santa Run.

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Killer told to expect long prison sentence

by Sue Austin

PSYCHIATRISTS WILL have to decide whether a man who killed his partner at their home in Oswestry is deemed a danger to society.

Brian Woodmass, 59, will face a substantial prison sentence when he is sentenced for the manslaughter of Jillian Louise Nevitt, a judge has warned.

Woodmass, of Orchard Street, Oswestry, pleaded not guilty to the murder of Jillian Louise Nevitt, but guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility when he appeared at Stafford Crown Court yesterday.

Ms Nevitt, a 45-year-old mother and grandmother, was killed on December 14 last year.

No details of how she died were revealed in the hearing. But Judge Simon Tonking said: "Jill Nevitt was not only killed, but killed in a very brutal way."

He said Woodmass must expect a jail term of considerable length when he is sentenced on December 22.

He called for a future psychiatric report to consider whether Woodmass should be deemed 'dangerous'.

Addressing his remarks to the many members of Ms

Nevitt's family who were in court, the judge said it was difficult to explain diminished responsibility when the facts of what happened were 'so dreadful'.

He had been told by Mr Mark Wall, for Woodmass, that psychiatrists had said Woodmass had been suffering from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The judge said that for the family's sake Woodmass must be sentenced before Christmas.

He promised the family that he would read the many letters that they had written to the court before the next hearing.

"Today has been a very, very anxious and tense day for you," he said.



Jillian Nevitt

Trolley to collect presents for children at hospice

TOYS AND GIFTS are being collected for an Oswestry charity to help fill Santa's sack when he visits life-limited children at Christmas.

Each year Hope House Children's Hospice, in Morda near Oswestry, invites Father Christmas to come and give out presents to the youngsters and their brothers and sisters.

Last year there was just enough to go around so Sainsbury's have decided to help collect toys for this year.

Staff will be donating a number of items and will be putting a trolley in the store for shoppers to help out as well. It will be put at the bottom of the tills from December 1.

Jobless Mark is desperate for work

THE LACK of job opportunities for youngsters in Oswestry was highlighted this week by an 18 year old desperate to find work.

Mark Windsor moved to Oswestry with his father nearly three months ago but has been unable to find any kind of work despite having qualifications in catering and hospitality.

"I'm part of the 1.02 million 18 to 24 year olds unemployed and searching for a job and find it embarrassing," he said.

"Yes there are jobs being advertised, but they are not suitable for young people."

"They are either management jobs, or are for experienced people."

"I'm sorry but I'm only 18 and to gain experience I need to start somewhere."

Mark moved to Oswestry from the Isle of Wight and has a BTEC Level 2 in catering and hospitality and claims that unemployed graduates are being given jobs that would be normally offered to him.

"For people like me who didn't go to university it's even harder to get into the lesser roles such as working in a supermarket."

"Graduates come out of university and can't get the jobs they are trained for so are applying for lesser jobs and



Teenager Mark Windsor is finding it impossible to get a job in Oswestry. Picture: Peter Flemmich

are getting them. So in this day and age it seems you need to have a degree to stack shelves, which I find staggering."

"Most graduates will not work as hard as the people in my situation because they feel it is a step down, however,

today it's the norm. I don't have an answer on how to get young people into employment, but I do know employers need to start taking a risk and employ the determined young people of today."

Mark can be contacted on 07773 710129.

Pub set to open doors again after a revamp

AN OSWESTRY pub which closed nearly a year ago after it was caught selling alcohol to underage drinkers will re-open under new management.

The former Eagles pub, in Bailey Head, is currently undergoing a major revamp before it opens under its original name the Castle Tavern on December 9. Three jobs are to be created.

And the new management has pledged to stick rigorously to the industry's Challenge 25 policy in a bid to deter teenagers from trying to buy alcohol at the pub.

The pub was temporarily shut down over Halloween last year after the previous managers were found to have served underage drinkers on two separate occasions by police and Trading Standards officers.

Bosses at Marston's, who own the pub, then removed the supervisors and closed the pub completely.

Paul Fitton, who will be helping manager Julie Gibson run the pub, said: "It was a shame to see it closed. Until last year it had a good history and hopefully we can take it back to the old times."

"It is not nice to see pubs shut so it is nice of Marston's to have a vision to see it has got potential."

Santa will be star guest at church event

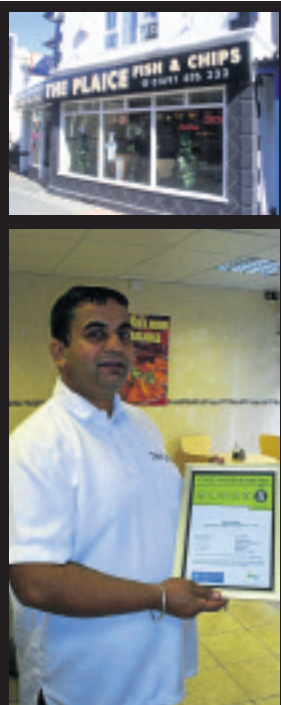
CHRISTMAS IS coming early to Llanfair Caereinion this year with the annual festive fair in aid of St Mary's Church taking place on Saturday.

The fair will be held in the Institute from 2.15pm and will feature all the usual stalls, including cakes, produce, bottles, plants, toiletries, sweets, silent auction, toys, bric-a-brac, Christmas decorations as well as tombola, a Fairtrade stall, a grand draw, numerous raffles, and refreshments.

The day will include Santa who will be touring around the town in his decorated vehicle and the surrounding area soon after 10am, while children will be able to meet him after he arrives at the fair at 3pm.

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Action group is passing on the baton to local council

AN ACTION GROUP set up during the sale of the Lake Vyrnwy estate has stood down, passing its baton on to community councillors.

The Lake Vyrnwy Community Action Group was set up in August to protect residents' interests after the water company revealed it planned to sell the estate's 125 year lease, excluding the lake.

It was also formed to encourage Seven Trent Water representatives to attend one of the village's public meetings.

Mike Duggleby, chairman of the group, said it had now done what it set out to do and would now give responsibility back to the Llanfyllin Community Council.

Mr Duggleby said: "The group has stood down."

"We set up in August to get Seven Trent to the meeting. We have achieved that and we have put to them a way forward for the area."

Lake Vyrnwy estate has been split into plots and some have been offered to United Utilities, RSPB Cymru and FIM Sustainable Timber and Energy LP.

A Seven Trent spokesman said the company was committed to ensuring the sale process was handled responsibly for the benefit of all those living, working on and visiting the estate.

Music night at church to feature choir

AN EVENING of voices and brass will be held at Oswestry's Holy Trinity Church on December 15.

The event has been organised by the Porthwenn Silver Band, one of the area's most popular and successful musical organisations.

It will feature another respected group, the Brymbo Male Voice Choir from across the north Wales border.

Tickets for the event, which cost £10, are available from the Oswestry Tourist Information Centre, the Guildhall in Oswestry or from members of the band.

More information is available at www.porthwennsilverband.co.uk



Nick Evans and Gareth Williams change the price of unleaded petrol at Stans. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Store starts petrol price war

AN INDEPENDENT store this week declared war on major supermarket chains as bosses claimed to have slashed petrol prices as low as anywhere across Britain.

Stans Supermarket, in St Martins, near Oswestry, has announced a price drop of 2p per litre for both unleaded and diesel.

It is offering 127.9p per litre for unleaded fuel, and 136.9p per litre for diesel.

Andrew Faulkes, co-owner of the store, said shoppers spending £50 or more in store would get an extra 7p off per litre.

He said: "We are bringing down the price of fuel which is making us almost the cheapest in the country."

"We always try to be as competitive as we can."

"We are doing it as a thank you to our customers who keep shopping with us."

Mr Faulkes said he had been checking his prices against others across the UK by visiting www.petrolprices.com which records prices from around 10,998 petrol stations.

The website was updated at the end of last week and showed that in the whole of the UK the cheapest price for unleaded was 127.9p. The best price for diesel was recorded at 135.9p.

The average price for unleaded was recorded on the website as 133.59p per litre and for diesel 141.16p per litre.

Mr Faulkes said: "Throughout the year having offers like this is something we do as a thank you."

The Shell garage in Oswestry said it offered 129.9p per litre for unleaded and 138.9p per litre for diesel.

In E.C. Ashton & Son, in Four Crosses, the unleaded costs 136.9p per litre and 143.9p for diesel.

Mr Faulkes said he had offered similar discounts in the past at Christmas time and it had led to huge queues on the forecourt.

Stans recently revealed plans to expand its business into Llangollen, which could create 20 new full and part time jobs in the area.

Planning consent has been obtained for a 3,000sq ft store and an eight pump filling station on the site of the garage.

Sad time as school prepares to close

A PARENT who has seen four generations of her family attend a Shropshire village school has revealed her sadness that it is to close.

Maesbury Primary School will be shutting for good at the end of the academic year despite staff, parents and governors battling for months to save it.

It was one of a number of primary schools earmarked for closure under a hard hitting education review by Shropshire Council.

The school was opened in 1923 and a number of families still living in the village have seen many generations go through it.

Alison Arrowsmith, from Maesbury, said her three children who currently attend the school were the fourth generation to attend.

She is also a teaching assistant there.

She said: "I am very saddened about it."

"I think we have all been in a situation where we would be constantly fighting for the past 12 months and it has worn out not only the parents but the head teacher and the staff at the school."

She said she hoped to keep her children at the school for as long as possible but admitted they were already losing friends whose parents were moving them out early.

Numbers at the school have dropped since Shropshire Council decided to close it. Earlier this year the school had 40 pupils but now has 26.

She said: "It is very sad and there is nothing we can do whatsoever."

Shock for Saints fans

THE NEW Saints, who play their home games at Oswestry, have been stunned by the resignation of director of football Mike Davies after 18 months in charge.

Davies, 32, announced his decision to step down last night despite his side challenging for the Welsh Premier title this season.

● Resigned - see Page 88

Bloom bid left hanging as council cuts basket budget

OSWESTRY'S award-winning floral displays have been hit after Shropshire Council revealed it will axe nearly half of the hanging baskets it provides in the town as part of spending cuts.

Shirehall officers have written to Oswestry Town Council saying they will be reducing their spending on "discretionary provision" of floral displays.

It means 12 of the 28 hanging baskets provided by Shropshire Council will not be returning next summer.

Oswestry is renowned for its flowers and has won gold awards from the Heart of England in Bloom Awards.

This year the town received a wealth of positive comments from the judges as well as the top prize and the town council believes the success has attracted publicity for the area.

The issue was being discussed at last night's meeting of the town council's amenities committee, and town councillors have promised to maintain the high standard of floral displays in the town.

In the letter Carmen Eccleston, Shropshire Council street scene manager, said: "Your council currently provided for floral displays/hanging

by Graham Breeze

baskets at 28 locations in the town on behalf of Shropshire Council.

"From summer 2012 we require 16 floral displays at locations as follows - six number pole planters along Bailey Street and 10 number baskets at Festival Square car park."

Councillor Betty Gull, who is involved with Oswestry in Bloom, said she was concerned to hear cuts had reached the street scene budget.

She said: "We will try our best to keep the standard up in Oswestry as well as we can."

"As long as it stays in an area of the town mostly people only go to it visiting the library and the car park it is less troublesome but I shall be watching it very carefully."

Students take art to town

WORK BY ART students from the Shropshire/Welsh border has gone on show in Oswestry.

The pieces by students from Llanfyllin High School have been put on exhibition at the former Stationery Box shop window in Oswestry town centre.

The exhibition is being staged as part of the Oswestry Footfall project which puts on displays in vacant shops and premises in the town.

Paula Fairbank from Footfall said: "The students who set the show up in the shop window were a credit to Llanfyllin High School."

"They worked together sensibly and efficiently and were very interested in the rationale behind Footfall."



Paolo Lepone and Gioconda Lepone get their pasta ready at Lepones in Oswestry. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Mama rolls up sleeves

LEPONE'S ITALIAN restaurant certainly has an air of authenticity at the moment, thanks to the arrival of the owner's mother.

Gioconda Lepone is on holiday staying with son Paolo and his family at their home in Oswestry and is taking more than a keen interest in the running of Lepone's restaurant in the town.

She is rolling up her sleeves to help her son run one of his popular cookery courses in the Salop Road restaurant.

Mrs Lepone showed those on the course how to make fresh pasta and one of her own recipe sauces that really is 'just like mama used to make'.

Many of the dishes served at Lepone's are based on Mrs Lepone's traditional recipes.

"My mother taught me a great deal about Italian cooking and our minestrone and the gnocchi is very much her own recipe," Paolo said.

"She has been keen to make sure that we are doing everything right in the restaurant, buying in the freshest fish and sea food and the best produce we can."

"We pride ourselves on our authenticity and my mother has been making sure that we continue to do so."

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Traffic survey will examine town centre

by Graham Breeze

A TRAFFIC SURVEY has been commissioned for Oswestry town centre by Shropshire Council.

It comes after a debate was held on Oswestry's Chamber of Commerce website about whether one of the main thoroughfares, Cross Street, should be reopened to the town.

It has been closed to traffic from 10am until 4pm for seven years as part of the town centre regeneration scheme.

There has also been concerns over the use of the entrances and exits to Central Car park.

Vehicles had faults found in spot check

AUTHORITIES stopped 79 vehicles on the outskirts of Welshpool last week in a multi-agency operation.

The operation took place with the support of the Welsh Government and Powys Local Authority.

Only 47 of the stopped vehicles were clear, meaning two out of every five vehicles stop-checked had offences.

Forty-three heavy goods vehicles were checked, with 16 found to have offences, these ranged from immediate prohibitions issued for brakes and tyres to graduated fixed penalties issued for driver hours infringements.

Of the 29 light goods vehicles checked only 16 were clear – four vehicles were seized under the powers of Section 165 for driving without valid insurance and/or not in accordance with a driving licence; others had offences with tyres and brakes.

The facility was built in 1971 but traffic has increased by 300 per cent.

Leader of Shropshire Council, Keith Barrow, was contacted about both issues and walked round Oswestry with Peter Lloyd, from Trinity Resident's Association, to see the traffic flows first hand.

Today Councillor Barrow revealed a survey had been commissioned for a more in-depth look to the issue. He said: "I think it is a sensible idea."

"The idea of making Leg Street one way and opening up Cross Street could create on-street parking."

"We are commissioning someone to look at the traffic flow around Oswestry."

"We are going to get someone to do a survey of the whole town and look at it as a wider issue."

Peter Lloyd, secretary for the housing centre, said: "We are very pleased that Shropshire Council is looking into the traffic flows throughout the town centre."

"We recognise that we live in the town centre and have to live with traffic but what we want is a proper balance between the needs of residents, the commercial needs in Oswestry and the needs of the traffic."

Reds fan Beckie dons rival strip



Beckie McKenna, from The Three Pigeons in Oswestry, preparing her fundraising evening in aid of the Breast Cancer Care charity. Picture: Peter Flemmich

PASSIONATE Liverpool fan Beckie McKenna has gone that extra mile in the name of charity – wearing an Everton shirt.

Beckie's family run the Three Pigeons in Oswestry and she was goaded into wearing the strip of her favourite club's deadliest rivals to help raise funds in memory of her late mother Josie for Breast Cancer Care.

Wearing the shirt for a day Beckie raised a total of £500 and took a lot of ribbing from regulars at the pub.

Now she is out to raise more funds and the Three Pigeons will be holding a charity night tomorrow, Friday with karaoke, bingo and a raffle.

Meeting tells businesses how to use social media

BUSINESSES from the Welshpool area will soon be using social media to their advantage after learning about the power of online media networking at an event in Newtown.

The potential advantages of social media for businesses was highlighted at the event organised by the Welsh Government's Supplier Development Service, managed by business development company Menter a Business.

It was held at the offices of marketing services company Ontrac Agency in Newtown, in conjunction with public and media relations consultancy OMB Communications.

Presentations by Alison McDougall of Ontrac and Owain Betts of OMB Communications, demonstrated the value and opportunities of using social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Businesses attending the event came from Welshpool, Newtown, Montgomery, Llanfair Caereinion, Rhayader, Berriew and Foel.

"There's a huge appetite out there from businesses that hear a lot about social media but they don't necessarily know how to harness it to their advantage," said Owain Betts.

AM is amazed by minister's claim

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Assembly Member Russell George said he was "shocked and amazed" by the First Minister Carwyn Jones's comments during weekly questions, that wind farms had no impact on the tourism sector.

Mr George said: "I was truly amazed by the comments made by the First Minister."

He could have read the detailed report that the Scottish Government published in 2008 that measured the economic impact wind farms have had on the Scottish tourism industry."

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NEWS

Warning given on housing proposal

GOVERNMENT PLANS to help first-time-buyers into new homes could depress the market for existing houses, a Shropshire estate agent has warned.

Jo Culley, sales director of D B Roberts, said the focus of the new plans, which will see 95 per cent mortgages offered to young people, could cause problems for people attempting to sell properties for the first time.

She said: "It seems to be entirely on new build homes and Right-to-Buy schemes, which may well have the effect of depressing the market for existing homes. "Although details are sketchy, it seems that the Government is focussed on helping the construction industry and is in danger of setting the recovery of the market in existing homes back for the foreseeable future."

Meanwhile, Mick Kent, chief executive of the Bromford Housing Association which has properties in Shropshire, has welcomed the proposals, but warned that they do not go far enough.

He said: "The housing strategy proposes a range of positive measures which broadly look helpful, subject to seeing the detail. "What the strategy doesn't do is set clear targets for new housing provision."

The association's executive director Helen Collins added: "If the government are prepared to set measurable targets we can all judge that progress against a shared understanding of what success looks like."

Scouts' honour as John gives 50 years of service



Vice Lord-Lieutenant Col Edmund Thewles OBE presents the award to John Abram (right).

by Catherine Ferris

THE NEWLY appointed High Sheriff of Shropshire has been honoured for clocking up 50 years of service as a scout leader.

John Abram MBE, from Oswestry, joined the 26th Shrewsbury Scout Group in Harlescott as an eight-year-old cub back in 1951.

And he was presented with an award for his 50 years of service at an evening held at Henle Park Golf Club in Gobowen earlier this month.

The presentation evening was hosted by Shropshire Borders District Scouts and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant Col. Edmund Thewles OBE handed out the awards to the recipients. It was announced on the evening Mr Abram would become the district president until April 2014.

The 68-year-old began his career as a scout master aged 18 in 1961. He took on the role of assistant scout leader after the other leaders were called up for national service.

He even met his wife Christine through the organisation through her role as cub mistress at the Harlescott group. The pair married in 1967. He went on to rise through the ranks, going onto become the assistant district commissioner for the venture scouts in Oswestry between 1968 and 1973.

He then became the district chairman for Oswestry district in 1987 followed by chairman of Shropshire Borders when the districts of Oswestry and Shrewsbury merged in 2003. He continued as an executive member from 2005 and took on the role of appointments chairman in 2010.

Mr Abram said: "I did not expect to get an award it was a bit shock but it was great to be awarded for something I love doing."

"It is a superb organisation. It has changed over the years but the basic principles of helping people have stayed the same."

"You never forget those lessons and they are very important."

Mr Abram has been a magistrate for the Shrewsbury and north Shropshire district for 25 years. He has been nominated to be the high sheriff from April next year after many years of service as a JP.

Groups are being urged to join up for parade

OSWESTRY Borderland Rotary Club is calling on local clubs, organisations and businesses to get seasonal celebrations rolling by joining the Christmas Parade through town.

Local communities as well as the town's organisations are being urged to join in and help raise money for local people and charities. To date about 20 groups have registered.

Jonathan Jones, parade organiser, said: "There's still time to get involved whether you are individuals, community groups or clubs by contacting me by e-mail at jonathan.jones@virgin.net or phone 07919 403355."

With help from Oswestry Rotary Club last year's event raised about £2,200 for local and Rotary charities.

Entries, which are free, fall into five categories, commercial, non-commercial, youth, children and walking. Winners in each section receive a commemorative plaque.

Model railway to aid charity

ONE OF THE country's biggest 0-gauge model railways will be open to the public this weekend, to raise funds for charity.

The model railway is housed on the Tedsmore Estate near West Felton, built over the years by train enthusiast Robert Parker.

Mr Parker, a member of the Rotary Club of Oswestry, offered

to put the exhibition on public display for charity, giving people a rare opportunity to see the collection.

Model train fans and families can see the collection at the Tedsmore Estate on Saturday, but will have to book in advance by ringing (01691) 650246.

Entry will cost £3 for adults and £2 for children.

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Selection of chicken on the bone		MIX KEBAB	£3.50
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Marinated in yoghurt with mild spices & herbs		Onion deep fried in spicy batter mix	
SHEEK KEBAB	£2.75	CHICKEN PAKURA	£2.95
Spicy rolled mince lamb		Tender pieces of chicken marinated and barbecued in the tandoor then coated in gram flour and deep fried	
CHICKEN KEBAB	£2.75	CHICKEN CHATTI WITH PUREE	£2.95
Spicy mince lamb fried flat		SAMOSAS	£2.50
NARGIS KEBAB	£2.95	Meat or vegetable	
Boiled egg surrounded with mince lamb then deep fried and dressed with a fried egg		STUFFED PEPPER	£3.50
TIKKA KEBAB	£2.95	Filled with either spicy chicken or lamb which is then barbecued in the tandoor	
KING PRAWN BUTTERFLY	£4.50	ZAL PANNIR	£2.95
King prawns marinated in various spices which is then barbecued in a tandoor		Northern Indian panir cheese stir-fried with green chilies, spring onions, peppers in a pungent chili relish	
PRAWN COCKTAIL	£2.50	Garlic fried mushroom	£2.95
PRAWN ON PUREE	£2.95		

TANDOORI SPECIALITIES

TANDOORI CHICKEN (half)	£5.95
Half spiced chicken on the bone	
LAMB TIKKA	£5.95
Diced boneless lamb marinated in yoghurt with mild sauces and herbs	
CHICKEN TIKKA	£5.95
Diced boneless chicken marinated in yoghurt with mild sauces and herbs	
VEGETABLE SHASHLIK	£5.50
Selection of mixed vegetables marinated in a tandoori sauce	
CHICKEN SHASHLIK	£7.95
Chicken tikka cooked in tandoori with tomatoes, onions and capsicum	
TANDOORI MIXED GRILL	£9.95
Consists of chicken tikka, lamb tikka, tandoori chicken, sheek kebab, king prawns and rum	
MEDITERRANEAN KING PRAWN SHASHLIK	£9.95
TIKKA MIX	£7.95
Served with mix pepper, onion, tandoori sauce	
DUCK TIKKA	£7.95
TANDOORI KING PRAWN	£8.95

MASSALA DISHES

CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA MASSALA	£6.95
Chicken or lamb tikka prepared in a specially prepared cream, a mild dish	
TANDOORI KING PRAWN MASSALA	£9.25
Consists of king prawns cooked in a specially prepared cream, spicy rich flavoured sauce	
DUCK MASSALA	£7.85
Tandoori duck cooked in fresh ground spices, almond and coconut powder in a mild sauce	
FISH MASSALA	£6.95
Fillet of Bengal averyfish cooked in a tangy sauce with fresh coriander and garlic	
CHICKEN CHILLI MASSALA	£7.45
Bhuna style green chili with garlic, fairly hot dish	
CHICKEN OR LAMB SIZZLER MASSALA	£7.45
Chicken tikka, lamb tikka or king prawn marinated in herbs and spices with cashew nuts and cream served in sizzler	

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Hot, spicy and very tasty, cooked with fresh green chilies, onion, garlic, coriander and capsicum		CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA PASANDA	£6.95
KING PRAWN JHALFREZI	£8.95	Consists of chicken or lamb tikka, cooked in a specially prepared	
SONALI HASH JHALFREZI	£7.50	spice cream, yogurt, a mild dish	
Duck tikka of the bone with ginger, garlic, green herbs, crushed mustard and spring onion complemented with a lovely flavoured hot sauce		SPICE FUSION SATHI	£6.95
KING PRAWN CAPICIA	£10.50	Marinated chicken tikka and lamb tikka cooked with onion, capsicum, tomato, coconut and almonds in a creamy sauce	
King prawn marinated in freshly ground spices and barbecued over a flaming tandoori grill then cooked with chick peas, peppers and potatoes garnished with coriander (medium to spicy)		SHARI BUTTER	£7.25
CHICKEN MAKHONI	£6.95	Tikka chicken, lamb or tandoori chicken cooked with pure butter and garnished with mild spices	
Simmered in butter and cream with garlic, cinnamon and mango pulp		CHICKEN ROMAN	£6.95
KORAI CHICKEN	£6.95	Cooked in a Bombay pot and egg	
Diced pieces of chicken cooked with tomato, onion, garlic, capsicum, well spiced served in an iron skillet		CHICKEN TIKKA MATAR	£7.10
LAHORI CHICKEN OR LAMB	£6.95	Diced boneless chicken tikka delicately spiced and cooked with minced lamb, garlic and chickpeas	
Chicken tikka or lamb tikka, red peppers, onion and tomatoes (medium hot)		CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA MARCHINGWALA	£6.95
ACHARI CHICKEN	£7.50	Bhuna style dish, king prawn, green peppers and green chili (fairly hot)	
Marinated chicken cooked to a hot & sour taste with special pickle flavoured sauce		TAWA RAZALA	£7.25
CHICKEN OR LAMB PODINA	£6.95	Marinated tikka chicken or lamb tikka cooked with garlic, ginger, selected herbs and fresh coriander served in a sauté (iron skillet)	
Tikka cooked in fresh mint flavoured sauce to make a mild, sweet, aromatic dish		SPICE FUSION KAKAO	£9.95
VEGETABLE PODINA	£6.95	Marinated king prawns, chicken tikka and lamb tikka cooked with onion, green peppers mixed with oriental Bengali spices and garlic topped with coriander	
CHICKEN CHASNI	£6.95	CHICKEN OR LAMB CHATTI	£6.95
Chunks of chicken tikka pieces simmered in a creamy sweet & sour sauce		Strip of chicken or lamb cooked bhuna style with thinly cut cucumber pieces in chutney	

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(Fusion dishes only available when dining in)

SHAHI SPICE FUSION	£10.95	ZALWA	£10.95
Tender chicken breast roasted with a filling of moolahm and honey complemented with tantalizing lemon sauce and basmati rice		Diced tender lamb marinated in yoghurt blended in hot spice, selected herbs and garnished with fresh sautéed green chutney, selected herbs and fresh coriander served in a sauté (iron skillet)	
FUSION DILKUSH	£10.95	CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA	£6.85
Tender breast chicken delicately filled with minced meat and selected herbs complemented with tantalizing dilkush sauce and sautéed rice		CHICKEN OR LAMB	£5.95
FUSION ROJONI	£10.95	PRAWN	£5.95
Star-fried spicy chicken cooked with peppers, spring onion, baby sweetcorn, baby carrots, alicia and layered with a garlic sauce smothered in a hot sizzling dilkush complemented with sautéed rice		KING PRAWN	£7.95
MORHABA	£10.95	MIXED VEGETABLE	£4.95
Spring chicken cooked with blend of exotic spices, bay leaves and an orientation of selected meat, complemented with nonnani rice of Bangladesh. The fish chunks are delicately fried with carefully selected herbs cooked in a bhuna style sauce, medium hot served with garlic rice		KURMA	£6.95
SPICE FUSION SHSHIR	£10.95	Chicken, lamb, prawn or king prawn dipped and washed in milk and cooked very mildly in butter and cream with slices of bhutana, a very mild dish	
Amalgamation of chicken and lamb fused with green peppers, tomato and onions complemented with pasta and kashani sauce		CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA	£6.85
LAMB SHANK	£10.95	CHICKEN OR LAMB	£5.95
A thoroughly garlicky dish with onions, capsicums, tomatoes and selected spices, dressed with mustard seed and mint peppers served medium to hot, the dish is accompanied with plain rice		PRAWN	£5.95
		MIXED VEGETABLE	£4.95
		CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA	£6.85
		CHICKEN OR LAMB	£5.95
		PRAWN	£5.95
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Tel: 01938 555688/556669

39 Severn Street Welshpool

Powys SY21 7AD

Festive theme at meeting of artists

CHRISTMAS WILL be the theme for the next meeting of Oswestry and District Society of Artists.

Ogwen Roberts will be inspiring society members for the final workshop of the year by holding a painting challenge at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre on Saturday.

The workshop will give members the chance to paint and draw together using the winter festive season as inspiration. It will start at 10am and end at 3pm.

Society members currently have their paintings on display for sale at Oswestry Library until December 3.

It will give art-lovers a chance to buy original paintings at affordable prices in time for Christmas.

Members are asked to collect unsold pictures on December 3 from 2pm and 4pm.

Felt course at workshop

A FELT-MAKING workshop will be held in Oswestry tomorrow, Friday.

The Willow Gallery, in Willow Street, will hold the event from 11am until 1pm when everyone is welcome to attend and all materials and an information booklet will be provided for each workshop.

There are limited places so people are advised to book in advance.

For more information call 07533 283875.

Food critic Giles raves about special pork pie from a pub

by Graham Breeze

OSWESTRY HAS grabbed the attention of a national food critic after he tasted a town butcher's pork pie.

Giles Coren, writer, TV presenter and novelist, wrote about Battams' pies after visiting the town's cattle market.

He mentioned it in his article Eating Out which featured in Saturday's *The Times* magazine.

He wrote: "I had a pork pie, for £1.10, that was the best I have had in years."

He went on to say that it was a good size and the meat was "good and pink from plenty of bacon in the pork".

He continued: "I would rate it over any poney plateful I have had in a restaurant lately."

Battams has been a family business for about 40 years. Kevin Battams, who has been in the trade for two decades, said he was happy to hear the pies had been a hit.

He said: "We have been selling pork pies to The Pedigree since the year dot. Being recognised by Coren can only be a good thing."

"The pork pie is one we have always made. It is home made and uses all local pork."

The pie was eaten in The Pedigree, in Shrewsbury Road, whose owner Karen Leonard said: "It is nice to be recognised by somebody so well-known."

Leader of Shropshire Council Keith Barrow, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Oswestry has been mentioned in the national news. It is something that I have known for a long time."

Oliver Cartwright, NFU spokesman, said: "This is justified praise for staff at Mo Battams', in Oswestry, and also says a great deal for the quality ingredients they use."

"Locally-reared pork is some of the best there is to offer and it's a great product which is very tasty, versatile and reared to exceptionally high standards."

"The pork pie is as British as Big Ben and I'm sure farmers and growers in Shropshire and further afield will be delighted that the pies served up at The Pedigree have been given the seal of approval from a food critic of Giles Coren's calibre."



Battams owner Kevin Battams, with his pork pies, which received praise in *The Times*. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Bowling green plan is back on the agenda

COUNCILLORS HAVE set the ball rolling on plans to bring a bowling green back to West Felton after more than 10 years.

The green used to sit in the grounds of the village's former Fox and Hounds pub until it was demolished for housing.

At the time there were plans to relocate the green to the

Punch Bowl pub in the same village. But when this pub changed hands plans were not carried out.

Today Councillor Steve Haworth said he had been working alongside the Punch Bowl staff to try and get a bowling green created in their grounds.

He said: "It would be nice to get it re-instated at the Punch Bowl and the licensees are being very supportive."

"We are working together to see what progress we can make."

"The bowling was one of the best in Shropshire so when the Fox and Hounds was demolished the number of bowlers

diminished. They now go to Llanyemoch.

"For at least 10 years we have been without a bowling green and it is missed by former bowlers."

Councillor Haworth said it was thought that the green could be placed on the grass near the pub's car park.

School for girls has come top of class

MORETON HALL near Oswestry has come top of the class in national league tables for independent schools.

The girls' school has been ranked as the top independent school nationally for 'value added' on academic success – and number two of all schools in Britain.

The system assesses pupils in Year 7 and predicts what each individual child's predicted GCSE marks will be. It then looks at actual GCSE results and identifies who has achieved above or below expectations.

"For schools which are non-selective this is a powerful tool for assessing how much the school manages to 'value add' to a child's education," the principal of Moreton Hall, Jonathan Forster said.

"Coming out as the number one independent school in the UK for value added for a second year is a great achievement for us. We have a very strong programme in place at Moreton."

Coffee date for villagers

THE NEXT village coffee morning in Dolanog, near Welshpool, will be held in the community centre tomorrow, Friday between 10am and 12.30pm.

Stalls will include Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac, books and much more.

There will also be scones or mince pies and a cup of coffee for £1.



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Pub goes global for contest's big finals

A TALENT competition in Oswestry was shown live in Barbados so proud parents would not miss out on their daughter performing.

The Venue, in Park Hall, has been running the O Factor for the last couple of weeks and last Friday eight finalists from across the region battled it out for the top prize of £100 and a day in a recording studio.

But during the night one of the competitors, Paige Victoria from Llanyblodwel, didn't want her parents to miss out on the show so it was filmed and sent through the internet to where they were staying in Barbados.

Sarah Barton, from The Venue, said: "It was great and it is the first time that has happened here."

"They couldn't be here so they watched it online on their laptop."

"It is brilliant. We have never seen our audiences stretch as far as Barbados."

Local celebrity judges including Malcolm Lord, TV show Rainbow's George, had the job of selecting this year's winner, which was Not Completely Blonde from Ellesmere.

Meeting up

THE NEXT open meeting of Shropshire Disability Network will be on Thursday December 8 from 10.30am-1pm at The Mereside Community Centre, Mereside, Shrewsbury.

Schools and businesses seeing spots for Pudsey

by Graham Breeze

HUNDREDS OF people across the Shropshire/Powys border were raising money for Children in Need last Friday.

Schools and businesses in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas dressed up for the occasion to help raise cash to swell the charity coffers.

Spotty outfits were the order of the day at Bellan House in Oswestry as a wide range of fundraising events raised £459 for the charity bonanza and there was a special visit from Pudsey Bear.

Headteacher Jackie Greatorex said: "This was a fantastic sum with the parents and those associated with the school very generous as always."

Students at Walford and North Shropshire College did a variety of events to raise funds. The TNS football scholars at the college took part in a Cross Bar Challenge while travel and tourism students were also busy fund raising.

Around 20 students on the sport, development, coaching and fitness extended diploma held a shuttle relay marathon during their lunch break whilst raising money for the charity.

A total of 26.2 miles was covered between the students.

Pyjamas

Pupils at Ardwyn School in Welshpool wore their pyjamas for the day to raise money and stalls in Welshpool Town Hall Market Village were also raising funds.

Pupils at Adcote School were once again raising funds for the appeal.

The school held a non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need, with the Juniors wearing spotty clothes.

The school also held a cake sale and raffle to donate to raise additional funds.



Pupils from Ardwyn nursery and infant School in Welshpool raised money for Children in Need by coming into school dressed in their pyjamas.



Bellan House School in Oswestry had a visit from Pudsey when he went to have a look at the activities that the children had been getting up to to raise money for Children in Need, including guess the weight of the cake. Picture: Ian Sheppard



Around 20 students on the sport, development, coaching and fitness extended diploma held a shuttle relay marathon during their lunch break. A total of 26.2 miles was covered.



Staff at Pant Motor Bodies got into the spirit for Children in Need as they joined up with Fix Auto, the UK's leading independent repairer network.



Some of the Year 7 pupils at Adcote School are pictured, who spent the day in their pyjamas and dressing gowns to raise money for Children in Need.

Firm scoops a top prize at award ceremony

A LARGE manufacturing company, which provides jobs for hundreds of people on the Shropshire/Wales border has been recognised at a high profile ceremony.

Kronospan has been named Large Employer of the Year at Apprenticeship Awards Cymru. The ceremony saw the cream of learners, employers and training providers, who have been dedicated to skills development, take part.

The awards were held to showcase excellence in skills development in Wales and were organised by the Welsh Government in partnership with the National Training Federation for Wales.

Kronospan, based in Chirk, employs more than 600 people from across the area.

The company is the world's largest manufacturer of wood panel products and laminate flooring. Its HR manager Ben Hipkiss described work-based learning as the future of engineering training in the UK.

The company introduced a dedicated apprenticeship programme at Kronospan eight years ago.

Delays after car overturns

A CAR OVERTURNED on an Oswestry road on Monday morning causing rush-hour queues.

Motorists were caught up after the accident on the B5069 Gobowen Road when a blue Peugeot car rolled over and two men were injured. Police received a call at about 9.30am.

A spokesperson for West Mercia Police said: "There were two men in the car. They were not seriously hurt."

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Robin and Ann Hinch and son Lee want to assure customers that the ownership, management and staff that you have entrusted your vehicle to still remain in place and you can be assured of the continued highest level of repair and customer service that you have come to expect at Pant Motor Bodies.

Fix Auto is a collection of independently owned bodyshops, united under one brand and committed to delivering the highest level of customer satisfaction through superior workmanship and service.

As part of Fix Auto Network the company is now aligned with Reminded bodyshops across the UK offering a National Warranty Programme on all work carried out. All warranties under Pant Motor Bodies remain valid for the duration of the terms under which they were issued.

The company employs 40 people and offers apprenticeships for people from the Oswestry and surrounding areas.

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Raise a glass to pubs beating slump

OSWESTRY REALLY is bucking the trend this week with the news that two pubs are back in business.

The Lime Kiln, in Porthywaen, is open again and the former Eagles pub, in Oswestry's Bailey Head, will be reopening as Castle Tavern in December.

That's great news for the area and surprising in this difficult economic climate but the same cannot be said for Welshpool or many of the villages where shuttered-up doors and windows have become the norm.

The Mermaid is closed in Welshpool and planning permission is in for change of use at The Green Dragon. Other licensed premises such as The Pheasant and Signature are only open on selected nights.

In villages such as Llansantffraid and Gobowen the shutters are down on pubs which were once the thriving social centres of village life.

The advent of cheap supermarket alcohol and the smoking ban have all taken their toll and I fear that pub life will soon be a thing of the past in this country.

It also seems the Government is less than sympathetic to the plight of the drinker or the landlord as tax on alcohol

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



continues to be one of the first to rise when the budget comes around. Watch this space.

WHAT IMPRESSED me this week was the determination of a young man who came to see me about being unable to find a job in Oswestry.

Youngsters today often get a bad press when it comes to wanting to work so it's refreshing to come across a young man so desperate to pay his way.

Eighteen-year-old Mark Windsor is one of the 1.02 million 18-24 year olds unemployed and searching for a job and finds it embarrassing to be just a statistic. Moving to Oswestry from the Isle of Wight has not been a good experience.

If I was looking to employ someone I'd be ready to give

Mark a chance. I've got his number if anyone wants it.

WHAT WOUND me up this week was yet another costly survey marking the news. This time it was announcing results that paracetamol can be damaging if used to excess. Well there's a surprise.

It really annoys me that so much money is being spent on needless surveys which simply tell us the obvious.

Driving on the wrong side of the road can cause accidents, jumping off the roof could damage your back, drinking red wine is bad for you or drinking red wine is good for you - it's all driving me daft. Who commissions these surveys?

WHAT MADE me smile this week was the news that young Welshpool lad Carl Gannon has been given an award by the Mid & West Wales Fire Service.

Carl is an example to everyone in the town, going about his day with a smile on his face, and it was great to see the service marking his work as a junior fire fighter.

It's not his first award. Earlier this year Welshpool Town Football Club named young Carl as their clubman of the year for all his fundraising efforts. He is Welshpool's number one supporter. Well done Carl.



Marches School students John Williams, Jamie Sutton and Charlotte Cope getting ready to cook.

School cooks up success with restaurant project

YOUNGSTERS COOKED up a treat at part of the Let's Get Cooking national initiative.

Students and staff at the Marches School in Oswestry teamed up with local businesses to produce a meal for 50 people in the school restaurant.

It was the latest Let's Get Cooking event held at the Marches.

The events see young people learning basic cooking skills and going on to produce culinary treats for invited diners.

One of those involved in the project is the chef at The Walls Restaurant, Darren Davies.

He helped the pupils create their dishes during the cookery day.

Amy Gregory, from the Marches, said: "Let's get Cooking is a national initiative that

by Graham Breeze

actively encourages people to develop their cooking skills.

"The club is very thankful for the generous support received from local businesses including The Walls Restaurant for their chef support, Treflach Farm for supplying much of the meat used by the club and Anna Doggart, a local organic farmer, who often supplies produce straight from her own garden.

Anna Doggart, who also volunteers during the cookery days said: "This has been a fantastic group, very enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with."

She said the aim of the project was to equip young people with the ability to cook healthy, tasty food.

Patryk Adamczak, a year nine student at the Marches School, said: "I've gained good skills, learnt great recipes and had fun."



Yoli Hopkins and Laura Yale get to work.

Chamber rebrands image with logo



Carrie Morris, committee member for the chamber, left and Neil Bevan from Hunter Bevan of Knockin who designed the new logo. Picture: Ian Sheppard

OSWESTRY CHAMBER of Commerce has rebranded its image by unveiling a new logo.

The logo, which includes a picture of a tree and leaves on branches, has been chosen to illustrate new growth and historic links to Oswald's Tree, according to chamber officials.

Traders were asked to choose from a selection of logos and they voted that the 'clear winner' was one created by design company Hunter Bevan.

It was called the Tree Logo and Martin Anderson, chair of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, said he thought it would 'really help the chamber in its communications and improve its recognition'. It comes after a rocky year for the chamber, which saw a number of committee members step down from their posts at the start of the year. The vacancies have since been filled by traders.

Mr Anderson said: "Clearly a logo that represents what you are looking to achieve is a great help and having chosen the 'tree logo' we think it's an excellent fit for us as it speaks to organic growth, building relationships and even 'Oswald's tree'. Our sincere thanks go to Hunter Bevan for their excellent design work."

Neil Bevan, director of Hunter Bevan, said: "We are really pleased that Oswestry Chamber of Commerce has chosen our logo and believe it will support them in their work to develop a thriving Oswestry business community."

The chamber will use the logo straight away and has placed it on a banner. It will also be placed on posters that are being used to promote the late night Christmas shopping and free parking initiative being run with Oswestry Town Council.

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UNDER DATA PROTECTION CAN I DEMAND TO SEE EMPLOYER'S FILE ON ME?

Q: I work for the local council. Two colleagues have been making life difficult for me recently and there was an argument which the boss witnessed. He refused to listen to my side of the story and now I have been told the incident has been recorded on file and a black mark put against my name. Can I demand to see this file under the Data Protection Act?

A: You have the right to see records and related information that is held about you. These rights are known as subject access rights. They entitle you to make a request to the organisation you think is holding, using or sharing information about you, whether that is held on paper or computer records.

But be aware that not all personal information is covered by the Data Protection Act. For example, if it also contains information relating to another person the organisation is entitled to withhold it unless the other person gives their permission. Another example is if withholding information puts at risk a criminal investigation or an offender being caught. If you want to know what information an organisation holds about you, you should write to them and make a subject access request. Provide them with your name, address and specific details of the information you want, including dates if you are referring to a particular incident. Ask for a copy of all the information they hold about you in respect of your entitlement under the Data Protection Act 1998. Also ask them to provide you with the logic involved in any automated decisions they have made about you. Finally, ask them to get back to you as soon as possible if they require further information, or a fee. As fees may be payable for every request, you should ensure you cover everything in your first letter.

Further information relating to this question is available from Stuart Thomas, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 2-5pm (no appointment necessary).



LETTERS & NEWS

www.oswestrychronicle.com 01691 668094

Action is urged on layout at junction

CALLS ARE being made for the layout to be changed on a busy road near St Martins to prevent accidents.

The A483/A5 Gledrid roundabout has been flagged up as a potential danger by St Martins parish councillors.

Parish council chairman Alison Utting said she was concerned over the way motorists were entering and exiting the BP Gledrid Services on the Gledrid roundabout.

She said vehicles were meant to go in one way and come out another but this was not happening.

She said 10 years ago plans were drawn up to create an elongated control reservation on the road to help with traffic flow.

But Councillor Utting said this had never happened.

She said: "It has become a dangerous part of the road. There have been a lot of close shaves."

"We are talking big wagons, cars and vans coming out of the petrol station and into the roundabout."

"It is a bit of a nightmare. It is a danger and a nuisance."

"We have written to Highways and Shropshire Council on several occasions."

"It is one of these things that is getting progressively worse."

A spokesman for Shropshire Council said: "The council is happy to discuss concerns with the parish council."

Saw stolen from vehicle

POLICE ARE appealing for information after an electrical saw was stolen from the back of a van in New Street, Welshpool.

The theft happened some time between 10am and 1pm on Wednesday, November 16.

The saw was an orange and white Stihl and anyone who may have seen something suspicious in this area at the time or who may have been offered such a saw for sale is asked to contact police.

Call Welshpool police on 101.

Quiz night

A PUB QUIZ will be held at The Green Dragon, Buttington, near Welshpool, on December 1 at 7pm.

Entry will be £10 for a table of four.

Put the time in and reap rewards

REMEMBRANCE Day services are always a moving occasion, reminding us that even our freedom to celebrate this event is made possible because of those who went to fight on our behalf.

I was impressed that more than 50 young people and leaders were present from the Scout groups, plus Girls' Brigade.

I complimented one scout leader on

the good work they were doing and was surprised when he said 'I get far more out of it than I put in'.

That's surely a principle of life. If we are willing to put time and effort into our community or simply helping others, we will be rewarded by joy and satisfaction in our own lives.

Helping youngsters work together to develop their individual potential and

build character can have immense influence in the future. One girl who had come up through the guides and then gone to college has just started teaching in our village primary school.

Many organisations are desperate for volunteers so, find out what's going on in your area.

RON JONES
Oswestry



Here's a grand way to travel. You get to see the sights and you get fresh air at the same time. This photo is from the collection of John Powell of Oswestry and shows a governors' cart, built by Rogers Coachbuilders in the town, probably around 1907. John said Rogers Coachbuilders had a factory on The Horse-market, on the opposite side from the rear of The Powis Hall.

Sympathy goes out to RSH board

CIRCLE TAKES over the running of the loss-making NHS hospital at Hinchbrook Cambridge next year and already is in trouble with healthcare professionals by saying hospitals need to be run like Toyota.

While this may follow the political dogma of Andrew Lansley's party, it is of little use in a healthcare system where production does not follow demand, and finance is decreasing on a year to year basis.

It remains to be seen if Mr Lansley's key requirements apply to Circle, as the detail is, no doubt, in the small print of their contract, which, as yet is not in the public domain.

There are many similarities between our local RSH Trust and Hinchbrook.

Both have massive black holes and serve a largely rural base, and in addition ours has to operate on two sites and must reach foundation status by 2014, or be recruits for takeover.

My sympathy is with the RSH board that has to choose whether to get sacked for rationing treatment or for failing to meet budgets.

PETER SAYLES
Oswestry

Cow factory decision is backwards step

THE DECISION by Powys County Council to approve an application for a dairy cow factory has both surprised and disgusted people.

Has the council now opened the floodgates for dozens of applications for super-dairies, which could eventually see dairy cows disappear from fields, incarcerated in factory farms and spending much of their time on giant turntables?

With the ban on hen battery cages due in 2012, plus seeing lots more pigs living a natural life in the open, albeit with the majority still in factory farms, then this move, on a 'new' species, is surely turning the clock back.

The planning process does not allow any objections on animal welfare grounds, proving once more that 'food' animals are treated merely as products.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Kelley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX

01952
254605

E-MAIL

letters@oswestry
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

We can help sufferers

IN THE WAKE of the tragic suicide of a father of two suffering from tinnitus, I write to urge your readers who may also have this condition not to give up hope.

They are not alone, and charities like Deafness Research UK are available to offer help and support.

Robert McIndoe's death is not the first suicide in connection with tinnitus and we are determined not to give

up on those living with the hell created by the symptoms.

We have a number of leaflets available and our national helpline is there to provide additional support for those who need us.

See www.deafnessresearch.org.uk email info@deafnessresearch.org.uk or call our free helpline, 0800 808 2222.

VIVIENNE MICHAEL
Deafness Research UK

Students on their bikes for business

ENTERPRISING teenagers got on their bikes in Oswestry to help them raise funds for a new business.

The eight year 10 pupils from The Marches School donned their cycle helmets and reflective gear and embarked on a 26-mile sponsored cycle from Oswestry to Llangollen and back.

The group, supported by Marches staff and parents, took part wearing fancy dress and raised £240 for MacMillan Cancer Care.

The sponsored cycle formed part of the students' Young Enterprise Programme and some of the funds raised will go towards their company registration fee.

Young Enterprise is the UK's largest business and enterprise education charity.

Youngsters have to create companies and make them successful in just a few months. Secondary schools from across Shropshire take part with teams shortlisted to go onto the county finals where they have to give presentations to a panel of judges.

The winning Shropshire Young Enterprise Group then represents the county in a national competition.

Christmas catalogue's support for orphans

A CHARITY based at Llanfyllin is urging people to help African orphans help themselves this Christmas.

Dolen Ffermio is asking residents to support their Christmas catalogue scheme which in the past has provided everything from pens and books to goats and hens to Ugandan orphans.

One success story saw an orphan called Bernard, who leaves in Kumi in Uganda, receive a small female goat in 2009. The youngster, who is looked after by his grandmother, is now steadily building up a small herd of goats to feed himself and his community.

Val Talbot, from the charity, said this year's theme of the catalogue was aimed at giving the orphans further chances to help themselves.

She said: "In this part of Uganda they do not go into orphanages but are cared for by members of their extended families."

"It is a wonderful thing that these families do - a big society if ever there was one."

To see what can be bought in this year's catalogue visit www.dolen-ffermio.org.uk

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NEWS

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Pupils to try their luck with shares

TEENAGERS FROM Oswestry's Marches School will turn stockbrokers when they take part in a competition.

The Rotary Club of Oswestry runs the 'Investment Competition', which is open to schools across the area. The Marches School has

entered six teams of keen Year 8 students, eager to learn more about dealing on the stock market.

The competition, run in conjunction with HSBC bank, involves students investing a virtual £10,000 and then managing their portfolios of stocks and shares until April

2012, when the team with the most money is declared the winner.

Students have been asked to do as much research as possible into the stocks and shares that they would like to purchase and have been provided with information from local investment clubs and

business teachers at the school.

Amy Gregory, marketing coordinator said: "The students are really excited to be investing in the virtual stock market and this is a fantastic opportunity to teach students more about the financial sector."

Start of next stage of work at site marked

by Graham Breeze

A BRICK-LAYING ceremony has been held to mark the next stage of building work for the £2.85 million youth centre in Oswestry.

Youngsters and Shropshire Council officials met at the site for the new state-of-art facility to mark its progress by laying a brick on top of the recently completed foundations.

The energy-efficient centre is being built in Oak Street on the grounds of the former Centre North West.

Members of the project board, a county deputy Member of Youth Parliament, councillors and supporters of the project took part in the ceremony.

The new facility, which has been named 'The Centre', will provide music practice rooms, ramps and skateboard equipment.

It will also have a coffee bar and kitchen and become the base for the town's St John Ambulance unit.

Billy Jackson, from MYPlace young people's forum, said: "It's a brand new building catering for all young people."

"It will be a fantastic place for young people to learn and grow."

Kathryn Brooke, deputy Member of Youth Parliament for Shropshire, said: "The centre will offer a fantastic range



Youngsters and councillors on site at the new youth centre project.

of exciting activities, opportunities and support for the young people of Oswestry and surrounding areas."

Shropshire councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden, cabinet member for youth provision, said: "It is fantastic to see work progressing well."

"Together with the council, the young people of Oswestry have worked extremely hard on this project and I am so pleased they will be able to see their ideas come to life."

Shropshire councillor Vince Hunt added: "I am delighted that this project is moving forward."

"I am truly excited about this, and thankful to all who have put so much effort into making this happen."

Oswestry town mayor Cynthia Hawksley said: "We wish this important facility for Oswestry every possible success."

A £2,115,877 grant was awarded by the Big Fund in April 2011.

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Revamped travellers' site to get new name

Diane's cupcake charity challenge



Diane Edwards, from the Clock Cafe in Welshpool's Market Village, which held a Children In Need cupcake decorating competition last Saturday.

Picture: Simon Williams

by Graham Breeze

A £1.3 MILLION redevelopment of Welshpool's travellers' site will be completed by the end of the year, council bosses say.

The Withy Beds site will be renamed Leighton Arches, or Bwa Tre'r Llai in Welsh, and will be ready to reopen by the end of December.

The site has been an official travellers' site since 1982 and the refurbishment was given the go-ahead by Powys County Council earlier this year.

The Welsh Assembly Government said it would spend £970,696 to improve the site and the county council, which owns it, will fund the remainder of the cost.

Councillor Kath Roberts-Jones, cabinet member corporate governance and assets, said the project had transformed the site. She also warned that the final cost of the project would not be known until it was completed.

She said: "This redevelopment project has modernised the site and it is fitting that it is given a new name, which has been supported by residents. Due to the severe weather we experienced last winter, work is still continuing which is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. Until all works are completed, it is too early to say what the final costs of the redevelopment project will be."

The project originally sparked some anger among some Welshpool residents, who claimed the money could be better used elsewhere.

But county council chiefs said its side of the money would be found through rent increases at the gipsy site.

The problems at the site came to light after the council carried out a feasibility study and report for the upgrading and redevelopment of it last year.

Among problems identified were health risks from a stagnant pond, vermin infestation and litter.

It also found there was a lack of fire-fighting equipment, of a clearly defined children's play area, health risks to users from potentially unsanitary conditions, security risks for occupiers and their possessions and safety risks for children.

Appeal for witnesses

AN APPEAL is being made for witnesses, following an attempted shoplifting at the Co-op store in Berriew Street, Welshpool.

Three men were seen choosing six bottles of Bells whisky from the display and concealing them about their person. When they realised that they were being watched, they smashed the bottles before leaving.

The three were described as foreign. One had dark wavy hair and was wearing a denim shirt, another was wearing a black top.

Anyone with information should contact 101.

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VAUXHALL

Calls to dress up at town's big event

THE PEOPLE of Welshpool are being encouraged to dress up to get into the festive spirit for the annual switching on of the town's Christmas lights.

Carnival Queen Rhian Thomas will lead a parade from the Tourist Information Centre office at 6.30pm to the Town Hall on Friday, December 2 where she will switch on the lights.

This year, Welshpool Town Council is inviting anyone who would like to join the parade to get into the Christmas spirit by dressing in fancy dress with prizes on offer to the best turned out.

The fancy dress is open to all ages and the judging will be across three categories, infants - up to the age of seven, juniors - seven to 11 and seniors 12 years to adult.

The parade, led by Newtown Minstrels Marching Band, is joined this year by Welshpool 1st Clives Own Cubs carrying lanterns that they have made, the Carnival Queen and her attendants; the Poppy Queen and Father Christmas and his helpers.

Santa will join the Mayor, Councillor Estelle Bleivas and the Town Clerk, Mr Robert Robinson for a short walkabout before retiring to the Market Village to meet the youngsters from 7.15pm.

The Corn Exchange will be open for a community table top sale.

Work on £2.8m permanent dialysis unit gets under way

Top award win for Carl



Carl Gannon at Scarlets Rugby Stadium Llanelli receiving the Young Persons Achievement Award from Steve Rowlands, Fire Officer for Mid and West Wales.

A YOUNG Welshpool firefighter and his station have gained recognition at a 'Celebrating Success' awards ceremony organised by the Mid & West Wales Fire Service.

Carl Gannon, a member of the junior fire fighting team at Welshpool, was singled out for the Young Person's Achievement Award at a ceremony held at Parc y Scarlets stadium in Llanelli last week.

The Team Achievement Award was won by Welshpool Fire Station for their efforts in raising funds for various charities throughout the year.

The Welshpool team plays a prominent

role in organising fund raising events in the town throughout the year, including the recent annual Midnight Walk.

Station Officer Brendan McWhinnie said: "This is a fantastic achievement not only for the station, but even more so for the community we represent. Thanks for their unstinting support."

Delighted to have received the recognition Carl Gannon said: "I love being involved with the fire fighting team and never dreamed that I would win an award like this. I just enjoy being a junior fire fighter."

by Graham Breeze

WORK ON Welshpool's new £2.8 million permanent dialysis unit started on Monday.

The 12-station, eco-friendly unit is being built in the grounds of the Victoria Memorial Hospital and will aim to treat its first patients by autumn next year.

Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, welcomed the news and said it was pleasing to see that a permanent unit would open.

He said: "Many people have been campaigning for this day for several years and will be delighted."

"When the permanent unit finally arrives it will be a wonderful reward for all the effort that an awful lot of people have put in over many years."

"Even though the unit will be based in Welshpool, approximately 16 people in Montgomeryshire have renal dialysis about three times a week, so it will be of huge benefit to local people."

A new dialysis unit has also been given the go ahead in Llandrindod Wells.

Health Minister Lesley Griffiths has announced that the money had been released back in July for the new building.

Powys Local Health Board is working with the Welsh Renal Clinical Network to help complete the work by Autumn next year.

The Minister made the original announcement while visiting the Welsh Government-funded temporary renal dialysis service at the hospital.

The Minister said: "The temporary unit at the Victoria Memorial Hospital is making a huge difference to the lives of many kidney patients across North Powys. It has saved many patients needing dialysis from regular and sometimes lengthy journeys beyond Powys for their treatment."

"The development of a purpose-built unit can now begin, giving those patients a permanent base for treatment. It also means a long-term alleviation of the pressure put on hospitals such as the Royal Shrewsbury, which took patients from the area before dialysis was available locally."

"The Welsh Government is investing significantly to improve access to renal dialysis services. The new unit in Welshpool, and that being planned for Llandrindod Wells, is part of this work."

The unit is sized to serve the need for hospital dialysis for most of the patients from Montgomeryshire, and also to offer dialysis to patients from outside the area.

Shoppers offered a free pie at centre

THERE'S A free mince pie on offer with every drink bought at Welshpool's Tourist Information Centre throughout December.

The centre will remain open until 7.30pm on Friday, December 2, with the fancy dress procession leaving from outside on the way to the switching on of the lights ceremony.

If you are planning to go away over the Christmas or New Year holidays and wish to book your break or coach travel, it is worth remembering that the centre is an agent for Tanat Valley, National Express, Owens Travel-Master and Sabrina Travel.

The Centre will close at 5pm on Friday, December 23 and will then close for the holidays and re-opens at 9.30am on Tuesday, January 3.

Audition for young talent

YOUNG PEOPLE from the Welshpool area are being offered the opportunity to audition for the National Youth Theatre of Wales.

To apply you must be aged between 16 and 21 and be actively involved in a drama group at school or college, or with a local youth theatre/performance group.

For more information or to make an application visit www.nytw.co.uk. Deadline for all applications is December 12.



A dyslexia awareness day was held at the Corn Exchange in Welshpool launched by the chairman of Powys County Council. From left, learning and development officer, Clive Thomas, chairman of Powys County Council, Barry Thomas, IT training and development officer, Alicia Ayadi, and schools effectiveness officer, Anne Kenyon.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

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Charity's plea for sale stock



The Sue Ryder Care charity shop in Welshpool is on urgent lookout for clothes to replenish their depleting stocks. Volunteer Peeranuch Poizer checks the rails. Picture: Simon Williams

Shoppers urged to donate food items

A WELSHPOOL supermarket is urging shoppers to buy an extra item this weekend which will be donated to charity.

Sainsbury's in Welshpool said it is taking part in the nationwide food-drive on Saturday.

Amy Owen, store spokeswoman, said: "While shoppers might normally be expected to take food away from the supermarket, customers at Sainsbury's in Welshpool will be leaving food behind too."

"The store in Brook Street is taking part in the one-off food collection on Saturday where customers will be asked to pay for an extra item which will then be delivered to a local charity or community project by Father Christmas."

Praise for woman's work with woodlands of Wales

A WELSHPOOL woman has been recognised as the unforeseen force credited with transforming large areas of the Welsh countryside.

As a woodland agent, Evelyn Over, from Castle Caereinion, works behind the scenes, offering a guiding hand to farmers and the owners of some of Wales's most renowned areas to bring their woodlands into active management.

She has single-handedly helped more than 100 landowners to access grants under the Better Woodlands for Wales (BWV) scheme operated by Forestry Commission Wales to encourage sustainable woodland management.

Rachel Chamberlain, operations manager for the Forestry Commission Wales Grants and Regulation team, praised Evelyn's tireless efforts to help landowners during BWV's lifetime.

"Woodlands need to be managed if they are to provide important environmental benefits both now and in the future," she said.

"Evelyn's prolific work in helping so many people to bring their woodlands into management will result in benefits, not only to the landowners themselves, but to all of us who value our countryside."

by Graham Breeze

Evelyn prepares applications for grant aid on the landowners' behalf and then brings her expertise – gained from a PhD in Forestry at Bangor University – to bear to help them manage their woodlands.

She said: "I was surprised to learn that I was responsible for bringing over 100 schemes into Better Woodlands for Wales."

"Well managed woodlands can make a significant contribution to the rural economy and I am pleased to be able to advise landowners and their contractors in managing their woodlands."

The latest scheme to benefit from Evelyn's advice and guidance is the Vaynor Estate at Berriew, which has 81 woodlands totalling nearly 200 hectares.

Mr William Corbett-Winder, Vaynor owner said Evelyn was an excellent woodland manager and that the BWV grants enabled him to focus on the woodland management that was so important for the estate's enterprises.

He said: "The woodlands at Vaynor make an important contribution to the economy of this rural area, providing local jobs and income from sporting and timber."

"I welcome the support of the grant from Forestry Commission Wales in helping to make sure that we manage the woodlands in a sustainable way that also benefits the environment."



As a woodland agent, Evelyn Over, from Castle Caereinion, works behind the scenes, offering advice to farmers and the owners of some of Wales's most renowned areas.

Knicker thief pleads guilty to a string of offences

A 48-YEAR-OLD Llanfechain man has admitted 18 charges of theft following a lengthy police investigation into the disappearance of ladies underwear from washing lines in Welshpool.

Geoffrey Robert Wilde appeared before Brecon Magistrates last week when he admitted the charges. He is due to appear before court again on December 6.

Wilde was arrested following a string of thefts from washing lines over recent months.

Following the arrest, Detective Inspector Diane Davies said: "We are aware of the high level of concern that these offences have caused to Welshpool and particularly those people directly affected."

"There has been an operation running over some time with the focus on identifying and bringing the offender to Justice."

"I would personally like to thank the member of public who gave out the alert that triggered the arrest; officers were nearby and were in fact targeting that specific area."

"I would encourage members of the public who see suspicious activity to please report it straight away."

Chinese vase fails to sell at auction

THE CHINESE vase found in a Shropshire home by a Welshpool valuer failed to reach its reserve at auction and is still in the hands of its owner.

The vase, thought to be 300 years old, was spotted by Jeremy Rye during a visit to price up other items in the house across the border.

The vase was sitting on the floor and caught his eye, leading to an evaluation of £500,000 ahead of its auction at Sotherby's last week.

A disappointed Mr Rye said: "It's a rare and fine piece so it is disappointing."

Flood research boosts tree planting plans

PIONEERING FLOOD risk management research carried out on a cluster of Mid Wales hill farms is now influencing future tree planting plans in river catchment areas around Welshpool, it has been claimed.

Scientists have calculated the impact that strategically planted woodland and hedgerows in the uplands have on regulating water flow into rivers to reduce flood risk downstream.

A key partner in the work is Coed Cymru, the all-Wales initiative to promote the management of broadleaf woodlands and the use of locally grown Welsh timber.

Coed Cymru's annual

stakeholders meeting heard speakers refer to research on 10 farms in the Ponthren Farming Group, near Llanfair Caereinion, which could have important implications for the UK and other countries around the world.

The research brought together scientists from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, five higher education institutions and the Environment Agency. Bob Vaughan, the Environment Agency's strategic environmental policy manager in Wales, said strategic planting upstream from flood risk locations was now supported as a 'soft defence' against flooding.

Trees help slow the peak run off rate at which water

enters rivers by as much as 40 per cent. Mr Vaughan said: "The right trees planted in the right place can do an awful lot for us."

Mr Vaughan said he hoped that at some time in the future insurance companies would invest in land management to reduce the risk of major floods, which cost them a lot of money.

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from the
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CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB

A busy time for town's chamber

IT'S BEEN a busy month for the Oswestry Chamber of Commerce!

We have been working with members and other traders around the town to promote Christmas shopping in Oswestry and are encouraging shops to stay open late on Fridays and on Sundays in December.

The town council is waiving car park charges at certain times in December to promote this and we hope that shoppers will enjoy these benefits.

An advertisement will appear soon in the local press and a banner will be placed at Central car park to provide more information.

I'm also delighted to report that both Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council have agreed to nominate specific councillors to work closely with the Chamber and they will be attending meetings on a regular basis, in order to continue to improve communications.

On top of that, we have completed our re-branding exercise and hope that you like our new logo and created by local design company, Hunter Bevan.

This logo, which was chosen by members, replaces the previous one which was more reflective of Oswestry's industrial heritage.

Earlier in the year, we shortened the name to Oswestry Chamber of Com-



Martin Anderson

merce, but would wish to reassure all businesses in the surrounding areas that they are very welcome to attend meetings and join the chamber.

The December meeting of the Chamber will be a social event, and tickets are still available from Booka bookshop on Church Street.

Now is a great time to get involved and do something to promote your business, identify issues that need to be resolved and have the opportunity to talk directly to officials and to meet like-minded and positive people.

More information about the chamber and the future meetings is on the website, www.oswestrychamber.org.uk

MARTIN ANDERSON
Chairman
Oswestry Chamber
Of Commerce

Solicitors recognised for their excellence at work

by Graham Breeze



Legal leaders – Peter Flint, Paula Nash and Neil Lorimer from Lanyon Bowdler.

THREE SOLICITORS practising with leading Oswestry law firm Lanyon Bowdler, have been recognised as leaders in their field by legal directory Chambers UK.

Joining previously-acknowledged partners Peter Flint and Paula Nash is partner and head of the personal injury team, Neil Lorimer.

Neil has specialised in representing claimants in respect of personal injury and clinical negligence claims for many years. He has acted for a large number of claimants who have suffered serious multiple injuries including brain and spinal injury and amputees, subjects in which he has a special interest.

Neil enters the Chambers UK Directory at Band 2 – just one step away from the very highest recommendation. The Directory recognises him for his "experience, approach and sensitivity."

Senior partner Peter Flint specialises in all aspects of family law, he is a practising family mediator and a trained collaborative lawyer.

Chambers Directory quotes: "Peter Flint draws praise for his professional and empathetic approach, and is applauded by one source as "the best divorce lawyer in Shropshire."

In addition to handling ancillary relief proceedings, he is also skilled in cohabitation issues and prenuptial agreements."

Paula is experienced in dealing with a broad range of medical negligence claims, including cerebral palsy birth injury claims.

All lawyers who appear in the directory are ranked because of the weight of positive feedback received during research carried out by chambers into the strengths and reputations of law firms and individuals.



Trisha's award-winning fashion store in Oswestry. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Milestone for fashion store

AN-AWARD winning Oswestry fashion store has completed a year in bigger premises.

Trisha's moved just down the road in Beatrice Street to a bigger and more luxurious premises to meet the demands of an expanding client base.

And now the business, which is run by Trisha Jones, has collected the area's premier award as a Linzi Jay stockist.

The award recognises the service given to customers in the sale of Linzi Jay products with the Oswestry store coming out tops in the West Midlands.

The move to a more spacious environment means Trisha's has expanded its range of designer gowns to suit all client price ranges, specialising in that special occasion such as a wedding.

Bespoke dress making and alterations are still a key part of the business and Trisha and her dedicated team thank all customers for their loyal support over the last 14 years.

Investigator specialises in helping businesses



Paul Wiseman

PAUL WISEMAN Investigations is not just another private investigation company.

The Oswestry-based company specialises in helping businesses, large and small, to navigate their way through the challenges that are an everyday occurrence in the modern world.

He said: "Have you ever entered into a business relationship with another company, or individual that if you had been aware of the true facts you probably would not have done so?"

"Have you employed someone, and then regretted it? Do you suspect an employee, customer or supplier of dishonesty? "Do you want information on your competitors? "Do you want to know your company's vulnerability to fraud?"

"If you have answered yes to any of the above, then call me," said Paul.

"I can supply full reports both for UK and international companies. I can vet a potential employee with a CV verification and credit and CRB checks.

"If someone is stealing, I can conduct an investigation that is fully compliant with guidelines. Timely and accurate information is very often the key to a successful business."

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Group wows web consultant

WEB CONSULTANT Janet Dale has been so impressed by an Oswestry networking group she has agreed to become its marketing officer after just six weeks.

Janet, who runs website design company it'seeze, first visited the 4Networking (4N) group in Oswestry in September and was so taken with the warm and friendly atmosphere among members that she joined straight away.

And a couple of weeks later she signed up to become the group's official marketing officer. Her role will see her trying to encourage other businesses from the area to visit the 4N meetings in Oswestry to see how effective networking through 4N can be.

Janet said: "I have been to other networking groups in the past but was struck with 4Networking by how welcoming the group was. The atmosphere is very informal and it really encourages a culture of local businesses supporting each other."

"I didn't hesitate in volunteering to take on the marketing role when I realised it was available."

The Oswestry branch of 4Networking holds a fortnightly breakfast meeting at



Janet Dale

The Lord Moreton at Moreton Park. Members can either sign up just for the Oswestry group or as a passport member, which allows them to visit any of 301 groups across the country, including other local groups such as Telford, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury and Wrexham.

4Networking area leader Heather Noble of Salt Solutions added: "I am delighted to welcome Janet to the Oswestry team and am thrilled she has found the group to be so welcoming."

Non members of 4Networking are welcome at the next meeting which will take place on Tuesday, December 6. For more information contact Heather on 07843 006984.

Round table talks on future of Oswestry

by Graham Breeze

BUSINESS OFFICIALS and residents from Oswestry turned out for round table talks to discuss the town's future.

Helping tourism and creating business and employment opportunities were among ideas talked about at the world cafe event at The Wynnstay Hotel last week.

The meeting attracted about 35 people who also focused on how the arts and culture in the area could help provide business and employment opportunities in the town while discussions also took place about how Oswestry could be transformed into a destination town that people wanted to visit.

The evening looked at how to help tourism and create visitor attractions.

Shropshire Council says it will now look at all the ideas in more detail.

Feedback

Council leader, Councillor Keith Barrow, who was at the meeting, said the feedback was important to help ensure future projects reflected the priorities and ideas important to Oswestry's business community.

John Waine, director of Best Of Oswestry, said it was a useful event. "You never know the ripple effects these things create," he said. "There were lots of ideas and you never know which ones will take off," he said.

"Meetings like these show that people are willing to listen."

During the meeting more information was given about town projects which had been recommended for approval by Shropshire councillors as part of the Oswestry Market Towns Revitalisation Programme.

They include plans to upgrade Oswestry Showground, helping with the Oswestry fingerpost signs, funds towards the refurbishment of Powis Hall and the restoration plans for Cambrian Heritage Railways, Oswestry Station and its adjoining yard.

Officers said the new projects reflected the priorities and ideas important to the community.

Councillor Barrow, said: "I was really encouraged that the people there were engaged with the process."

Rise in owners adding value to their homes



An extension designed by Design & Planning Associates of Oswestry.

SINCE THE economic recession began, Design & Planning Associates Ltd (DPA) has seen an upturn in home owners adding value to their property.

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"In addition we also offer a wide range of other services including new build residential properties and commercial developments."

Design & Planning Associates has many years' experience and takes pride in the efficient service offered to all clients, no matter how small or large the project is.

For more information visit their website at www.designandplanning.net or call 01691 659595.



Winter treats at Whittington Castle

Festive fun for castle visitors

WHITTINGTON Castle will be getting into the festive spirit with a series of craft fair events, Father Christmas Grotto, seasonal food as well as mince pie guided walks.

People looking for an unusual and locally made gift should browse among the craft stalls each Sunday at the castle until December 18. Sue Ellis manager said: "There will be different stalls each week, from handmade gift crackers, designer watches, jewellery to handmade quilts and cakes."

"We hope to cater for most tastes. The castle gift shop is also crammed with ideal gifts for children longing to be knights and princesses."

Entrance to the castle is free with a £1 car parking fee. On December 11, 18 and 14 the castle will open its Grotto to a special visitor when children can meet Father Christmas.

Those wishing to know something more about the castle's history can join a castle guide for a tour each day for a mince pie tour complete with refreshments each day at 12 noon and on the 31st at 2pm.

The castle stays open all year with the tearoom and gift shop being open each week from a Thursday until a Sunday.



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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



The Derwen Farm Shop at Guilsfield grew out of Rachel Joseph's passion for supplying local produce.

Farm shop goes from strength-to-strength



Tempting treats at Derwen Farm Shop.

THE DERWEN Farm Shop originated from Rachael Joseph feeling passionate about getting local food to local people.

Luckily Rachael's family were able to provide the perfect site at their garden centre in Guilsfield and The Derwen farm shop is now in its sixth year, and despite all the obvious hurdles that come with setting up a new business, it is going from strength-to-strength.

"We are now looking forward to the run up to Christmas, and have got the shop bursting with goodies, including festive chocolates, Christmas puddings, cakes, local ales, jams and chutneys, making fantastic gifts on their own or in a hamper," said Rachael.

"Closer to Christmas we will be providing everything you need for a perfect feast, including fresh fruit and vegetables, local meats and a great range of Welsh cheeses.

"Of course we are taking orders for local free range turkeys and geese now too.

"At least twice a year we put on events at which the public can come and meet the producers and sample their wares.

"These events have proved very popular and keep people in touch with the food they are eating.

"The shop is a great boost to the local economy, and there is no need to look further afield as so much is available in abundance on your doorstep.

"Next year we are hoping to put many more of these events on, as well as some workshops and demonstrations, including bread making, basket weaving and apple pressing.

"We enjoy what we do at Derwen farm shop, and have developed a loyal customer base.

"Many people now use the shop as a one stop, and we like to think we can provide everything that one might need and at extremely competitive prices too.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Major step forward for student Stacey



Stacey Laundry from Major Extensions in Gobowen. Picture: Peter Flemmich

NINETEEN-YEAR-old Stacey Laundry identified a gap in the market after a college course for hair and beauty.

So she launched Major Extensions because she wanted to do something different while staying in the hair and beauty sector.

She wore her own hair extensions and liked the versatility of having long and short hair.

So she began to research the background of hair extensions, and practised whenever possible.

She mainly focused on doing family and friends' hair extensions until recently her name became known around the local area.

She has now qualified in techniques of hair extensions which she believes are new to the area and has re-developed a room in her home into a professional home salon which offers a warm and friendly welcome.

Booming

Stacey aims to make people feel better about themselves as she believes that a woman's hair determines how they feel that day.

She is dedicated and hard-working and determined to create a good future for herself and a booming business.

She would love to have her own shop in the future based in Oswestry with her own staff and hopes to create a bright future for herself and others.

This is her passion and talent.

Stacey also is proud to say that Jamie Lee Williams, Miss Galaxy International, is a regular client of hers and promotes her whenever possible. She loves to wear weave-in-hair extensions.

See vouchers on this page.
To contact Major Extensions call 07792 828558.

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Impressive family residence built to top quality standard

An impressive family home with award-winning design features is on the market with Woodhead Estates priced at around £385,000.

The Front House, Lower Farm, Knockin, near Oswestry, is a four-bedroom detached property set in the heart of the village.

Built to a high standard, the accommodation includes extensive oak flooring, coving, gas-fired central heating and double-glazed sash windows.

Downstairs is an entrance hall with oak flooring, cloakroom/wc, spacious living room with oak flooring

and fireplace housing a living flame gas fire, dining room overlooking the garden, and a sitting/family room with patio doors to an individually designed conservatory with views across the garden. There is also a study and a contemporary kitchen with a good range of units, built-in appliances and door to a utility.

An oak staircase rises from the hall to the galleried landing. The master bedroom includes a dressing room with built-in wardrobes and vanity unit, with door to an ensuite shower room. There are three further bedrooms, all with fitted wardrobes. Bedroom two also

has an ensuite shower room, and there is a modern family bathroom.

To the side of the property is a garage, with a driveway leading round to the back providing parking space for a number of vehicles.

A gate opens to the south-facing rear garden, which is mainly laid to lawn with a large patio entertainment area, shrub borders and two further seating areas.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit the website www.woodheadestates.com



Detached home set in quiet cul-de-sac on outskirts of town

Agents JJ Dell are marketing 38 Jasmine Gardens, Oswestry, with a price tag of £169,950.

Situated on the edge of town, the detached bungalow stands in a tranquil cul-de-sac. The well-appointed accommodation includes double glazing, gas-fired central heating and fitted carpets.

There is a reception hall with airing cupboard and loft access, lounge/dining room, modern kitchen with built-in appliances, bathroom and two bedrooms, one with a large fitted wardrobe.

To the front, a driveway providing ample parking leads to an attached garage. The rear garden includes a patio and steps up to a lawn with vegetable patch, shed and attractive views.



Spacious three-bed bungalow presented in immaculate order

A spacious detached bungalow in a quiet village cul-de-sac has come on to the market with Halls priced at £199,950.

In excellent decorative order throughout, the accommodation at 5 Oak Close, Weston Rhyn includes a superb kitchen/dining room, conservatory, light and airy lounge, three double bedrooms, garage, extensive driveway, gardens and workshop.

The property benefits from gas-fired central heating and UPVC double glazing.

For further information please contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsgb.com

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Modern family home occupies corner plot on popular estate

Standing on a corner plot on popular residential estate, number 6 Glentworth Close, Oswestry, is a modern detached house with two reception rooms and large conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and cloakroom, master bedroom with ensuite shower, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. The £225,000 home benefits from an integral single garage, gas-fired central heating and double glazing.

For more information please contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk



Three-bed detached bungalow on market for quick sale

A quick sale is required for 19 Parc Caradog, Trewern, Welshpool, which is on the market for £169,950. The three-bedroom detached bungalow is in good condition throughout and has a spacious living room leading through to a conservatory which looks out on to the attractive and well-maintained garden. The property comprises entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, living room, conservatory, hall with access to loft, bathroom, and three bedrooms, along with a garage.

For more information please contact McCartneys on 01938 531000 or visit www.mccartneys.co.uk



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Cefn Farm, Buttington near Oswestry and Welshpool is a three-bedroom cottage with 6.75 acres of land, outbuildings and farm land in a private position offering great potential. It is for sale through Town & Country at £397,500. Its accommodation comprises a lounge with original inglenook fireplace, parlour, kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms. Adjoining the house is a garage and there are several outbuildings with conversion potential. The land is laid to pasture and is split into four fields which surround the property, and there is also a garden.

For further information please contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.co.uk



Show's organisers to add family activities

Annabelle bows out



Russell Hardy, chairman of the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Trust, presents fundraiser Annabelle Simpson with flowers.

A FUNDRAISING stalwart has stepped down from her post after more than nine years as chairman of Oswestry's hospital friends group.

Annabelle Simpson, who lives near Oswestry, has been praised for her leadership, charm and efficiency in the role over the past years for the League of Friends to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic. She took her last meeting as chairman at the recent branch liaison committee meeting attended by representatives of league branches from Shropshire, north and mid Wales.

She said: "I've had so much more out of this than I have put in." Lady Trevor, a fellow executive committee member, said: "I have had the privilege of working under many chairmen. The last decade has been the most onerous and Annabelle has handled it all with great tact."

Taking over the role is Tricia Norris, who is a former branch chairman and a member of the league's executive committee since 2008.

Centre hosts students' work

AN EXHIBITION of work by students from Telford College of Art and Technology is being held at the Oswestry visitor centre until Saturday.

The centre, in the building which housed the original Oswestry School, is in St Oswalds churchyard.

It will also host a craft shop until

Christmas, with cushions, jewellery, coloured glass, wood, pottery, knitwear, handbags, slateware, teddies, painting, jams, rugs and baskets, plus Christmas decorations.

There will also be entertainment, starting with singing from Whittington School Choir on November 29 at 11am.

by Graham Breeze

FREE ACTIVITIES for youngsters will be provided at a vintage show in Oswestry for the first time next year, organisers have revealed.

Funfair rides, an outdoor puppet show and archery activities will be held at the town's 34th annual vintage vehicle rally and craft fair at Oswestry Showground next summer as part of a bid to encourage more families to attend and to appeal to younger people.

The event, which is organised by Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society, will be held on June 16 and 17 and is expected to attract crowds from far and wide.

During the weekend there will be a number of attractions including the popular steam and miniature engines, vintage and veteran cars, commercial vehicles, classic campervans, vintage motorcycles and pedal cycles, vintage tractors, stationary engines, horticultural and garden machinery.

People will also get to see heavy horses, organs, browse the crafts hall and model hall.

Outdoor displays and collections include vintage caravans, trade and autojumble stands, a fun dog show and ring events throughout the day.

There will also be food and drink on sale on the showground as well as a licensed bar.

A spokesman for Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society said: "This is a very popular event with both local residents and vintage vehicle enthusiasts from around the country who come to admire the varied exhibits and attractions on show."

"For the first time in 2012 we will be offering free children's funfair rides, as well as a free children's outdoor puppet show, free 'have a go at archery' and Kondini with stunts and escapology."

Visitors will be able to park for free and tickets cost £6 for adults, £3.50 for children and £14 for a family ticket of two adults and up to two children. Gates open to the public at 10am on both days. For more information visit www.cvvms.co.uk

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Date is set for town museum

OSWESTRY'S VERY own museum could be up and running by March next year, organisers have said.

People working to set up the town museum at the Guildhall, in Bailey Head, have revealed they want it to be ready by March 1.

A report from the town museum planning meeting to Oswestry Town Council revealed the planned timescale would see preliminary work, to set up an office and install systems, completed by December. Displays, publicity and cataloguing systems would be created by January or February with the official opening in March.

Eyes down for festive bingo

AN OSWESTRY club is putting on festive activities.

Oswestry stroke club is holding a Christmas prize bingo tomorrow, at the town's Memorial Hall.

Doors open at 7pm with eyes down at 7.30pm.

On Saturday, the club will be holding its Christmas fair from 9am to 1pm. The event will also have free tea, coffee and mince pies.

Boundary plans under scrutiny

TIME IS RUNNING out for people in Oswestry to have their say on plans to change the political landscape in the town through a review of parish boundaries.

Shropshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review for Oswestry and people living in the town and the surrounding parishes are being asked for their views on changes to the electoral arrangements for the area.

Councillor David Lloyd, chairman of the working group overseeing the review, said it was important residents got involved.

He said the deadline for the consultation was fast approaching.

"Reviews like this don't happen very often, and indeed it's something of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your say on the make-up of town and parish council boundaries in Oswestry," he said.

"It may not seem very exciting at first glance, but it's really important to have a look at the proposals because it could change how many councillors represent your area in the future.

"It's important when considering changes to ward boundaries to ensure that there are a similar number of electors to councillors in each ward and that community identity is retained.

"We don't want to put certain roads or streets that may be part of quite different communities in the same ward, and we need local people to tell us if the proposals might do that."

The review is considering the number of members of Oswestry Town Council; the division of the parish into wards and the number of members per ward; whether there should be any minor changes to the

by Graham Breeze

boundaries of the town with adjoining parishes; and whether there should be any changes to the parish boundaries with Oswestry Town and the parishes of Selatyn and Gobowen, Whittington and Oswestry Rural.

The cross-political working party will consider all representations received from town and parish councils, local electors and other local organisations from within the district.

From these, it will put forward proposals for changes which will then take effect at the next Local Government elections in 2013.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals can do so until December 5 by writing to Democratic Services, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND or emailing democracy@shropshire.gov.uk.

Copies of the terms of reference for the review and the maps can be viewed at Shropshire Council's offices at Castle View, Oswestry or at the offices of Oswes-

Tarzan writer swings by

AUTHOR AND screenwriter Andy Briggs swung into an Oswestry's Marches School in a bid to inspire budding writers.

Mr Briggs held workshops yesterday at the school with 120 year seven students. He has worked on a number of movies and television shows in the US and around the world and has also written a modern adaptation to *Tarzan*.

In a talk to students he said: "Every young person has ideas."

School librarian Sarah Richards said: "We are very grateful to Books Bookshop for arranging the visit and are encouraging students to read his fantastic new book *Tarzan*."

Year Seven student Amy Rowley said: "It was a brilliant morning, interesting and funny."

"He has really inspired me to keep writing."

Mr Briggs said: "The group has been hugely enthusiastic and asked lots of questions, the time just flew by."



Author Andy Briggs who visited The Marches School and Technology College in Oswestry to sign copies of his latest book *Tarzan The Greystoke Legacy*, with 11-year-old pupils from top to bottom Amy Rowley, Owen Williams and Katie Davies. Picture: Simon Williams

Youth club members help design a new logo

YOUNG PEOPLE from the Gobowen area have designed a logo for their new drop in centre in the village.

The Green Room project meets at the Gobowen Pavilion on Wednesdays between 6.30 and 8.30pm.

Volunteer Justin Cliffe spent time at the Green Room, working with the teenagers on the new symbol and also on a new Facebook page.

The logo will be used on letterheads and posters, Facebook and the community online networking site which has been set up to help local groups and residents communicate about what is happening in the area.

Paul Drury, chairman of the voluntary youth group, said: "We have involved the young people in setting up the group and worked with pupils at Rhyn Park School to find out what they want us to provide for them."

"Over the summer we held five sessions at the pavilion and a community play day to help us consult with young people."

"They said they wanted a place to meet friends, play pool and other games and have access to snacks and drinks. We were pleased we could provide this from the Pavilion."



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In the frame for fresh challenge

SHE HAS travelled the globe, painted portraits for the rich and famous and helped to set up Oswestry's Willow Gallery.

Faye Pearson, 34, was working at the Malthouse Gallery for Peter Vidal from Vidal & Company when they had the idea to start a new art space for Willow Street.

Vidal & Company wanted to expand its premises to Roy Evans's car garage and this left space in the showroom and surrounding buildings.

Faye said: "They were wondering what to do with the space and we both thought, why not make it a place to have coffee and a gallery?"

And so Faye plunged into months of hard work.

Supportive

"It was scary to do," she said. "It was a lot of hard work but a fantastic experience. Peter was a lovely supportive man and so encouraging. If I needed help he was always there."

"We also had a whole team of volunteers that came in and worked with us."

Faye's family live in India but she moved to Oswestry in 2009 after returning from a contract in Bangalore and approached Mr Vidal to do some voluntary work.

She was made gallery manager where she brought artists from across the globe to showcase their work in the town.

But last Friday, November 18, she hung up her hat ready to move on to her next adventure.

She said: "My time at the Willow

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



Gallery has been amazing and I was really proud to be a part of it.

"I have met and discovered some incredibly talented people in Oswestry."

"I am happy I helped to start something that will bring a new and different element to Oswestry, making it richer in some way."

Art has always been the passion in Faye's life, alongside travelling the globe. Before Mr Vidal and Oswestry, she studied Art and French at a university in Oxford and is a portrait painter.

Her painting skills have been admired by some famous faces and she has created pieces for Lord Bath from Longleat and for musicians.

She even painted the album cover for Irish singer Declan O'Rourke which went platinum in 2006.

She said: "I went to Dublin on holiday and I walked past HMV and saw pictures in the window of his album with my painting on it."

"It was very exciting."

Now she plans a business trip to Holland to set up online marketing support for artists, before returning to India to power forward with Creative Contacts, an artist group she set up in 2007.

The group has 500 artists and helps



Faye Pearson, of the Willow Gallery in Oswestry, with textile illustrations by Suzette Smart.

Picture: Simon Williams

artists with networking, finding jobs and commissions across the country.

She said: "Because I have been visiting India since I was a child, travelling is

in my blood. It feels normal. I have lived in seven countries and speak a number of languages."

"I love people and meeting new people

and that is my passion. You have got to be passionate about what you do, that is the key to life – that and a good cup of tea and a piece of cake!"

Pupils plan pond which should help their studies

STUDENTS FROM a school in Oswestry are planning to build a pond to help them with their studies.

Year eight students from the Marches School are being given help from the Rotary Club of Oswestry for the project.

The pond, at the school, will be designed to help with learning and will also be available for children from other schools to visit.

Youngsters from the school attended the Rotarians last meeting to present their ideas to the group and members offered their assistance.

Justine Holdsworth, citizenship teacher at the school, said: "Club members were so impressed with the students they agreed to offer their support."

"It is hoped that a long-term relationship with the club has been initiated."

Lucy's a winner

LUCY Hampson won a poetry competition at Marches School as part of National Poetry Day. She was awarded a book token for her efforts and her poem is on display in the Learning Resource Centre.

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NEWS

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Railway has steamed to drivers' aid

by Graham Breeze

CAMBRIAN HERITAGE Railways has come to the rescue of an Oswestry charity offering it free parking after its blue badges were taken off its drivers.

Dial-a-ride services, based at Qube in Oswald Road, provide transport to the elderly, disabled and rurally isolated, and used blue badges when picking up and dropping off clients.

The badges allowed drivers closer access for the clients. But when they expired this month volunteer drivers claimed the Department for Transport refused to renew them as it was tightening up on its policies.

Michelle Kelsall, transport supervisor, said: "Not having the badges has caused us quite a bit of agro."

"We operate the service in the middle of Oswestry, we are based in the middle of Oswestry and we are dealing with people that need to be picked up and dropped off."

"A parking area that is located close to the Dial-a-ride office in Oswald Road is essential for the smooth running of this service."

Pupils give gift boxes

SCHOOL PUPILS are helping to make Christmas a more cheerful time for children in other parts of the world.

The youngsters from Belan House School, in Oswestry, have been taking part in Operation Christmas Child which each year provides festive gifts for underprivileged children across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

They have been filling shoeboxes with such items as toys, toiletries, clothing and sweets which will be sent abroad in time for Christmas.

"Without parking it would be a struggle."

But Cambrian Heritage Railway and the Station Building Trust offered up their car park for free day-time parking.

Dial-a-ride members said the help was a great example of local charities working together.

Roger Date, from the Cambrian Heritage Railways and Station Building Trust, said: "Being local charities we like to support each other."

"The ethos of the Trust is to work in the community for the community."

Dial-a-ride has now contacted a national volunteer organisation to help it lobby the Government.

Signs are good for pub and cartoonist



The Golden Lion Hotel at Landysilio has had two signs painted outside and a mural painted inside by artist John Shackell. Hotel Owner Rob Cook-Williams is seen here with the signs. Picture: Ian Sheppard

A NOVEL NEW illustrated sign above a pub on the Shropshire/Wales border is attracting admiring glances.

The eye-catching sign has been put up outside The Golden Lion Hotel at Four Crosses, after being specially designed by cartoonist and painter John Shackell.

Golden Lion owner Rob Cook-Williams commissioned Mr Shackell, from St Martins, to create a painting for the building.

The commission was for him to paint a large cartoon-style picture of the area around the hotel, its countryside, and inhabitants.

Mr Cook-Williams was so pleased with the work he asked Mr Shackell to make the sign for the pub.

He said: "The painting has gone down extremely well with our regulars and hotel guests alike. It's a real talking point and a must see."

"John's a great cartoonist and he captures in the painting exactly what you ask of him."

"We were so pleased with the work that we also commissioned John for the new sign at the Golden Lion Hotel on the front of the building."

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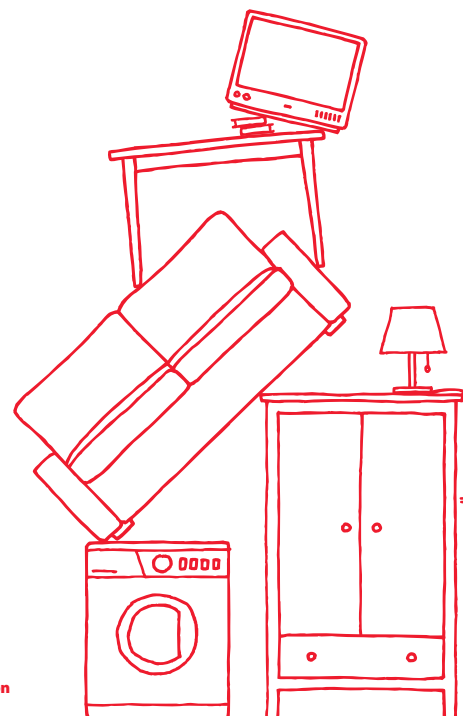
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Traders urged to join festive street party

Rotarians help two causes



Rotary cheque presentation – from left, President Mike Jones, Marches Riding for the Disabled secretary, Dorothy Thomas, chairman, Natalie Sheehy and treasurer Erica Morgan and fund secretary, Rotarian John Davies.

CHEQUES HAVE been presented to two organisations from the May Hignett Bequest Fund by the Rotary Club of Oswestry.

The club presented the money to Marches Riding For The Disabled and The Qube Gallery at The Walls last week.

Rotary Club President Mike Jones said: "It is a privilege for the club to administer this fund and so support the exceptional work done by local organisations such as Riding for the Disabled and Qube."

"The focus of our efforts is on small local projects in the fields of arts and of sport and the two organisations represented today were an excellent fit."



Rotary President Mike Jones hands over a funds boost to Qube Arts Coordinator Lindy Parkinson with bequest fund secretary, Rotarian John Davies.

MARKET TRADERS do not have long left to sign up and take part in Oswestry's annual Christmas event.

David Clough, the town council's market manager, is hoping to make this year's Christmas Live event bigger and better with lots of craft and food stalls.

They will be spread along Bailey Head and Bailey Street for the event and traders have until the middle of next week to take part on December 2 from 5pm until 9pm.

Mr Clough said last year was the first time they introduced crafts and food to the event which includes live music. This year he hopes to have up to 30 stalls for the event.

He said: "We have quite a few booked already but I am still looking for food and farmers' market-style traders."

"We want to see things like chocolates, fudges and cupcakes. This year the stalls are all local. The market was a real hit last year and we were lucky with the weather."

"This December will also be the first year that there will be an ice rink."

Hundreds of schoolchildren will be able to skate for free when the synthetic rink is installed at Festival Square.

It will be ready for use from 1pm to 9pm, and from 1pm to 6pm there will be 10 available half-hour skating slots with a maximum of 25 skaters per session. There will be open session for the public from 7pm to 9pm at a price of £5 for adults and £3 for children.

The indoor market plans to open, with a Santa's grotto to help raise money for charity.

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A truck slaloms in and out of parked cars on Caer Road, Oswestry. It is followed by several cars, a van and cyclist who, as he comes to a halt to let the oncoming traffic through, must be scratching his cycle-helmeted head and thinking: "When did Caer Road, a normally quiet residential street, become a busy trade route?"

Yes, Caer Road, the smallest 'bypass' in Oswestry, is experiencing unseasonably heavy traffic, and will be doing so until next summer. While neighbouring Hill Fort Road is closed for essential water works, it is now a temporary diversion route for anything on wheels.

And to be honest, at busy times it can be a bit of a pain in the rear bumper for some residents.

Take resident and mum Amy Nurse, whom I bump into fetching two of her children back from the nearby Woodside Primary School (outside which, incidentally, as good practice she uses the zebra crossing even though there is no traffic here), says: "It's a nightmare."

"It is really busy, and trying to get kids into the car when you go out is really hard because of all the passing traffic. It is being used as a cut-through and it is a wonder there hasn't been an accident."

I notice Amy's surname, 'Nurse'. Is she, by any chance, a, er, nurse, I ask rather pathetically?

"No," she says, "but I am hoping to do midwife training." That will do for me, nurse Nurse.

Down the road, resident Herbert Davies is pondering his blocked drains while chatting happily with passers-by. "It's a good neighbourhood - some are new and some have been here all their lives," he says.

"What keeps Herbert busy these days?" Golfing and fishing with his two brothers, he says, although he adds: "But since one's legs have gone and the other's back has gone I don't go as much."

A sense of community has literally been cultivated at one end of the street; residents have built a community garden.

Resident Ann Gater explains: "It was a real mess before. The council never bothered with it and we all got together here to do it. We sanded down the benches and painted them and designed the garden



Former pub landlord Sid Hallam.



Ann Gater relaxes in Caer Road.



Bypass - traffic is being diverted along Caer Road until next summer.



A rare quiet moment on Caer Road, Oswestry, currently experiencing much heavier traffic.

and what plants to put in it. It was a real community effort and it has brought everybody together.

"One neighbour was a cook and so we planted a herb garden, and my garden is a memorial garden. A neighbour of mine, a good friend who lived below me, died, and it's a dedication to her."

"She had given me all the plants."

Ann also says there are plans to remember people who have lived here by fixing memorial plaques to the benches set out in the small green oasis.

As she shows me proudly round the garden it is a testament to the efforts of this group of friends how neat and pretty it all looks. And it would be even more neat and pretty if it weren't for several beer cans that have been lobbed into it.

It was probably thrown by someone who once would have gone to the pub to do his or her drinking

but now does it perched on a garden wall with a tinny. Talking of beer, over the road lives former pub landlord Sid Hallam who, in the heyday of pub-going, ran The Three Pigeons in Oswestry for 20 years between 1985 to 2004.

His father, Eric, kept the Five Bells on Willow Street for 20 years before that. Sid, you could say, knows the pub trade and, although what keeps Sid busy these days is the role of vice-chairman of the Oswestrian Conservative Club in town, he is sad to see so many pubs go to the wall. "It was a good time to run a pub. Beer was cheaper, there was no cigarette ban and little competition from supermarkets. Pubs were part of the community," he says.

Bit pricey to go regularly these days though? Sid agrees. "Not that you wanted to, but in those days you could get drunk as a cart for a tenner."

Residents are asked for views on region

RESIDENTS OF the villages and hamlets in Kinnerley parish near Oswestry are being asked to get involved in shaping future development in the area.

The rural parish is one of five in Shropshire that has been chosen to pilot the new national neighbourhood planning programme that has been launched by the government.

A drop in information event is being held in Kinnerley Parish Hall today, Thursday between 3.30pm and 7.30pm. During the event people will be able to find out more about neighbourhood plans and also give views on their preferences for development in the Kinnerley parish over the next 15 years.

This could be related to housing development, environmental issues, recreation, education and play or anything else that is considered important.

Councillor Sheila Bruce, chairman of the parish council, said: "We are pleased to be one of the first parishes in Shropshire involved in producing a neighbourhood plan."

Police warn of crimen

POLICE HAVE repeated warnings about bogus callers tricking their way into the homes of elderly people.

The warning follows a distraction burglary at the home of an elderly couple at St Martin's, near Oswestry last week.



Amy Nurse with two of her children, Sienna Williams, 3, and Declan Williams, 4.

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Come Hell or High Water – acrylic on board by Ben Waddams.

Big search is on to find the best souped-up car

YOU MAY have heard of 'pimp my ride' well now artists in Shropshire are urging people to 'tART your Car'. A nationwide search has begun to find the best souped-up car for a future project in Oswestry.

Organisers want to hear from people who believe their revamped motor is a like a work of art. Those interested in taking part are being urged to take a photograph of their much loved and cared for car and post it on the TORQUE Facebook site, which has been set up by the organisers.

Artist James Davidson, who is involved in the project, said: "We want to hear from anyone who has got some groovy wheels and who has done a lot of work on it to send us their photographs of the car. We want them to post the photographs on our Facebook page. They will be judged by a guest and the winner will get a trophy."

Entries will be judged on creativity and imagination and the top five will be invited to bring their entries to the Willow Gallery, in Oswestry, for final judging.

Faye Pearson, gallery manager, said: "The organisers want as many people as possible to get involved. I am really excited about the idea. For Oswestry it is something really special."

The winner will be given a specially commissioned trophy presented by an independent and special guest.

People are urged to post their pictures by the deadline of December 23.

The top five chosen will be announced on December 30 and the preview party will take place on January 6.

Society is given a short history of film

A SHORT HISTORY of film music was presented to the Oswestry Recorded Music Society when members met to hear an audio-visual talk by Paul Astell.

It was illustrated with music from the early 'talkies' by Arthur Honneger and Max Steiner.

There was also music by Franz Waxman and Alfred Newman from the golden age of Hollywood movies.

Music from the film noir era was by David Raskin and the early British film industry was by Malcolm Arnold.

Music from the modern blockbuster productions included Maurice Jarre,

John Williams and John Barry.

A spokesman from the group said: "The programme was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience."

The next society event will be the Christmas social on December 1. Tickets are available from the treasurer Marion Bradcock.

The society meets in the Parish Centre, in Broad Walk, Oswestry, between September and May on alternative Thursday evenings.

Visitors are welcome along and the meetings start at 7.30pm and end at about 9.30pm.

Social media boost for town businesses

BUSINESSES from the Welshpool area will soon be using social media to their advantage after learning about the power of online media networking at an event in Newtown.

The potential advantages of social media for businesses was highlighted at the event organised by the Welsh Government's Supplier Development Service, managed by business development company Menter a Busnes.

It was held at the offices of marketing services company Ontrac Agency in Newtown, in conjunction with public and media relations consultancy OMB Communications.

Presentations by Alison McDougall of Ontrac and Owain Betts of OMB Communications, demonstrated the value and opportunities of using social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

"There's a huge appetite out there from businesses that hear a lot about social media but they don't necessarily know how to harness it to their advantage," said Owain Betts.

I'VE JUST mown the lawns and for that to be true in the middle of November, it must mean one of two things. Either I have no idea about gardening – possible. Or we have had very little rain recently.

The lack of water may be welcomed by early morning dog walkers and commuters, but it most certainly is not appreciated by those magnificent creatures that are currently masses in the UK's river systems.

Without a substantial downpour, the UK's salmon population is by and large stuck in the lower reaches of their chosen river.

Weirs have always held a certain fascination within me. They are dangerous places – I once capsized my kayak in one and struggled to get out. But they are a magnet for the more aquatically adept of us. Pools that form beneath the weirs draw every single fish species in the entire stretch.

They are a great source of food for smaller types and they in turn feed the larger predators, be they chub, pike, zander, otters or herons.

But although weirs can attract fish, they are also a huge barrier for any species wanting to move up the river. Fish

ON THE WILD SIDE

with Ben Waddams



ladders are installed by the Environment Agency in key areas, but not all the fish will find them; they are, after all, completely unnatural pathways.

The fish that don't have the fortune to swim up into the 'ladders' are left to battle it out with the raging white water and they can only have a hope of succeeding if the rains come.

Recently I visited the main weir on the Severn in the town centre to see if there were any salmon about and I was not disappointed. On the far bank, away from the main fish ladder, I stood and gazed at the crashing torrent below. At first I didn't know where to look, but then I began to glimpse things.

A head above the foam, a tail splash instantly engulfed by the waves. Then after just a minute or so, a huge red salmon flung itself into the air. It soared above the maelstrom for a second, flapping wildly in an effort to propel itself even further before colliding once more with the current below.

Even though the event occurred for just a couple of seconds, I could make out the unmistakable colours. The gleaming flecked flank, the smooth head and back and the elongated lower jaw; this was a male salmon, a cock fish, in all his fighting glory.

Several more fish leapt in the coming minutes, all of course in vain. I filmed them and took a couple of photographs before returning to my sedentary life as a human being.

Later I edited my film and took the inspiration from the photos I'd snapped to paint a leaping salmon. It did of course do the real-thing, no justice whatsoever, but it will always be a reminder to me of not just the beauty and excitement of the natural world in November, but of the overwhelming nobility of some animals to battle the odds for the sake of their unborn offspring. For once, I'm rather hoping it'll rain.

Watch Ben's film of the salmon leaping and see his painting evolve online at: www.uograms.webs.com

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Off on a bear hunt . . .

by Toby Neal

IF YOU are allergic to bears, flick over the page now, because we're about to go on a historical bear hunt in Oswestry.

It's all been sparked by a picture we published showing a mystery pub in the town at the corner of English Walls and Leg Street.

We can now reveal that it was . . . (drum roll) . . . the Bear Inn! And as a lot of you have probably realised, it is long gone, as it was demolished many years ago (1932 seemingly) and the Regal cinema built on the site.

However, it turns out that just over the road were more Oswestry bears, in the shape of the Bear's Paw Hotel, which later became the Bear Hotel.

Our thanks to Mrs Mary Abel, of Middleton Road, Oswestry, for putting us in the picture.

"The photograph you put in the paper was where the Regal cinema is now, on that corner," said Mrs Abel.

"On the other side of the road was the Bear Hotel, which was previously called the Bear's Paw, which my grandparents kept. So on the one side was the Bear Inn, and on the other side was the Bear's Paw. My grandparents were Mr and Mrs Richard Richards. My grandmother was Mary Elizabeth Richards.

"They kept the Bear's Paw, which became the Bear Hotel. It's still there, but is now called the Smithfield.

"They went there in 1919. The family was still there in the 1950s. Richard Richards died in 1938 and his son John Richards stayed there until the 1950s.

"I remember my uncle being there, but my



This pub on the corner of Leg Street and English Walls has now been identified as the old Bear Inn, which was demolished to widen the road. The Regal cinema was built on the site.

granddad died before I was born. The Bear Inn on the opposite side of the road was, I think, knocked down in 1932 to widen the road because there were a lot of cattle being driven past to go to the market, which was in English Walls. They went up English Walls, which was between the Bear and the Bear Inn, and so had to go in between them both."

She has pictures of the Bear's Paw, and another of it after alterations in 1926 with her

grandparents outside. Mrs Abel's mother, Mrs Mary Jones, wrote explanatory notes on the back of them.

"She was born at 14 Salop Road. Then they moved across the road to the Bear's Paw in 1919. She was only five."

Mrs Jones, who died six years ago, wrote down her recollections for her children and we hope in coming weeks to dip in to these to look at life in Oswestry of yesteryear.



The Bear's Paw Hotel, which stood over the road, and later became the Bear Hotel – it is now the Smithfield. Mary Abel's mother, Mrs Mary Jones, wrote on the back of the print: "Bear Hotel, Oswestry, prior to 1926. Restaurant and entrance door on corner. Restaurant window 1st right, 2nd right dining room window, 3rd right kitchen window. Window left, exhibition of cakes etc. and other food. Door next, to passage, straight through to rear. Door next to little house, already added to hotel. These two doors are now the entrance to hotel. Note the wall on right which was corner of the Bear Inn, demolished. Also boards along windows to prevent windows from damage by cattle being driven to the market, then along the English Walls."

Castle gets ready for Victorian festivities

A NUMBER of festive events are taking place on the Shropshire/Wales border.

Magical Victorian Christmas events are being organised for visitors to Chirk Castle on December 10 and 18 from 11am until 4pm.

The state rooms will be beautifully decorated and there will also be an elves workshop, a Lord of Misrule and festive foods.

Father Christmas will be there all day on Saturdays and Sundays and from noon until 2pm on Mondays to Fridays.

There will also be craft stalls and other family activities at the weekend.

On December 9, the castle is hosting a Champagne gala evening. People are invited to treat themselves to the special Christmas event from 7.30pm.

There will be a Champagne reception in the library accompanied by live music. The event costs £45 per person.

For more information call (01691) 777701 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chirk



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MARKETS

Welshpool livestock market

OTMS (83)

A good show of 83 over 30 month cattle sold a very good average of 115ppkg for the older cows, 115ppkg for the under 48month old heifers, 150ppkg for the under 48month old steers and 136ppkg for the bulls.

D B Davies & Son Pencastle sold a Limousin cow weighing 804kg to a top price of £1,101.48 a head.

Bowen & Bowen Penrhyn sold a Limousin cow weighing 777kg to £1,080.03.

Bulls sold to a top market price of £1,362.24 for a Limousin Bull weighing 1,032kg from G & A Orells Maesderwen.

Under 72 month charolais cow from E H Pennie & Son Gwern y chain sold to £1,464.54 per head.

D B Davies & Son Pencastle receives the Briarwood Products Ltd for the highest price older cow sold on the day.

The weekly sale of OTMS is held every Monday at 9am prompt.

FAT CATTLE (19)

An entry of 19 fat cattle sold to an excellent average of 206ppkg for the steers and 204ppkg for the heifers.

A top price of 235ppkg was achieved for a blonde d'Aquaine heifer weighing 468kg which was purchased

by Gwyn Evans of Llanfyllin. J M Rowlands sold a limousin heifer weighing 565kg to 225ppkg.

D W & L M Jones Arbennig sold six limousin heifers to a top price of 217ppkg and an average of 209.5ppkg.

Steers topped at 214ppkg from JT Lewis & Co Dolfor Hall.

Weekly sales of fat cattle are held every Monday at approximately noon.

PRIME LAMBS (5,737)

An entry of prime lambs, selling to an excellent average of 203.8ppkg.

Lights (532) sold to 213ppkg from H & PM Pickstock Celyn, others to 209ppkg from J E S Corfield Woodgate Farm, with an average of 202ppkg.

Standards (1,538) sold to 221ppkg from S J Smith Penybryn, others to 219ppkg from J H H Jerman & Co Wernddu, average 201ppkg.

Mediums (2,341) sold to 225ppkg from S & A Perkins Upper Farm, others to 216ppkg from M H Pugh Gilfach, average of 205ppkg.

Heavies (1,049) sold to 209ppkg from D R Owen & Sons Sandilands, others to 208ppkg from DJL & SJ Evans Rhoscyninfa, average of 192ppkg.

Overweights (218) sold to 205ppkg from W E G Evans Llwynyrith, others to 189ppkg from DJL & SJ Evans Rhoscyninfa average of 179ppkg.

Weekly sales of fat lambs are held at 10am.

CULL EWE (1,953)

An entry of 1,953 cull sheep sold to a better average of £80.94 a head for the ewes and £86.92 for the rams.

Top price on the day for a cull ewe was £160 from M Foster, The Grove, JA Williams Llechwedd Ddyrys sold ewes to £139 per head.

E & D Jones Lluestwen sold cull rams to a top price of £125 per head.

Weekly sales of cull sheep immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately noon.

STORE EWES AND STORE LAMBS

A brilliant entry of 1,280 store lambs entered the market this week selling to a fantastic average of £64 per head.

Top price were for lambs from J W Rees & Son Nantyrhendre, which realised £77 while Texelx lambs from Jones Plas Newydd achieved £80.80.

Texelx whethers from Miss M Hughes Rhosaflo sold to £79.20 and tups from RJ & GE Jones Penwtra sold to £76.50.

A reduced entry of ewe lambs, were selling to a top price of £78 for Texelx from J E Bennet Goppas.

Once again more store lambs are required to meet a very strong demand. The

next sale will commence at 10.30am next Monday.

DAIRY COWS

An entry of 17 dairy cattle met with a grand trade once again with three heifers hitting £2,000.

The first to achieve it was a pedigree heifer presented by D E Davies & Son, The Gornal Farm.

Also hitting £2,000 were MT Jones Elms Farm and WA & EM Morris Maes-tanyglwyden.

PA & JM Astley Cefn Farm sold a 2nd calver sired by Askew Reece for £1,980, from the same home where five bulling heifers which sold to a top price of £670.

R R Corfield & Co sold a heifer for £1,580.

A three-week-old heifer calf from GL & CE Davies Ty Brith sold of £320.

A breakdown of the prices achieved where as follows: £2,000+ 3 lots, £1,800-£2,000 1 lot, £1,600-£1,800 2 lots, £1,400-£1,600 2 lots, £1,200-£1,400 2 lots, less than £1,000 6 lots.

Forthcoming Sales

Monday, November 28, cows and calves.

Monday, December 5, Christmas Fatstock Show and sale

Monday, December 12, cows and calves.

Monday, December 19, Dairy Cows and Christmas Cracker of texel in-lamb ewes.

Oswestry cattle auctions

FAT CATTLE: (51)

A very poor show of cattle in terms of numbers, we need a lot of cattle every week, and especially the next three weeks.

The trade was outstanding for the cattle we had, it honestly had to be seen to be believed.

Top slots hit 214p for heifers, 211p for bulls and 204p for steers.

Highest price in the lump was £1267 for a steer.

Minimum price was 114p for a plain friesian steer.

Overall market average of 176p was achieved.

Young bulls (21) overall average 177p. Light bulls (2) average 171.5p (£680/head) Selling to 211p from D A Williams Tanyclawdd.

Medium bulls (12) average 176.5p (£895/head) selling to 189p from R D Thomas Neuaddlwyd.

Heavy bulls (7) average 178.5p (£1080/head) selling to 197p from H Howells Tynywtra.

Steers (12) overall average 170.5p.

Light steers (3) average 125p (£501/head) selling to 132p from C A Wildbore Carrehofa.

Medium steers (3) average 174.5p (£875/head) selling to 185p from W Hughes & Son Waen Farm.

Heavy steers (6) average 181.5p (£1121/head) selling to 203p from W Hughes &

Son Waen Farm. Heifers (18) overall average 180p.

Medium heifers (6) average 181.5p (£840/head) selling to 195p from F Jackson & Son Pentreshannel Farm.

Heavy heifers (12) average 179.5p (£945/head) selling to 214p from R E & B E Lewis Griben.

The auctioneers need more cattle each week to satisfy demand, especially handyweight meated butchers' cattle.

FAT LAMBS: (4215)

An excellent entry of 4215 fat lambs on Wednesday November 16.

This entry is down by just 150 lambs on the corresponding day last year, however the trade was up a staggering 32p/kg on the same date with the overall average being 183.5p/kg.

The 822 light lambs averaged 176.5p/kg, peaking at 192p/kg, with 31kg lambs fetching £59.50 from M J Tomlins Wigmore Lane.

1,374 standard lambs averaged 182p/kg peaking at 215p/kg for 39kg lambs making £83.80 from M & S Jones Lower Forest Farm.

1,393 medium lambs averaged 187p/kg peaking at 204p/kg for 41.5kg lambs making £84.80 again from M & S Jones.

Superlights sold to 183p average 175.5p, lights to 192p average 176.5p, standards to 215p average 182p, mediums to 204p average 187p, heavies to 193p average 179.5p, others to 175p average 169p.

Overall average was 183.5p.

More lambs are required each week to fulfil the good seasonal demand.

The Christmas auction will be on Wednesday December 7.

Contact the market office for a schedule.

FAT EWES: (585)

Ewes sold to £89, average £46, rams to £100, average £56.50.

Please note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (67)

This was the best show of calves for many weeks, with an excellent trade for all classes.

Best continental males sold to £355, females to £256 Friesians to £158.

British Blue Bulls topped at £355 from Messrs Williams The Stocks, £305 from Messrs Williams, Wern Holdings, £274 from Messrs Foulkes, Selattyn Lodge and £268 from Messrs Davies, Lower Fawnog.

Charolais bulls sold to £352 from Messrs Clay Brook Farm; limousin bulls made £312 (twice), £270 from Messrs Pryce Coed-mawr, £305 from Messrs Ward, Manor Farm, £298 from Messrs Jones, The Manor, £284 from Messrs Davies, Ty Brith; British Blue heifers sold to £256 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawnog £254 from Messrs Heatley The Grange, limousin heifers sold to £250 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr

£242 (twice), £234 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill £240 from Messrs Williams, Lightwood Hall and £234 from Messrs Rylye Berrywood; friesian bulls to £158 from Messrs Roberts, Ty Issa, £142 and £130 from Messrs Jones, Lyneal Hall, £140 and £132 from Messrs Davies, Park Mill Farm, £120 and £98 from Messrs Lloyd, Pentref, £110 from Messrs Ward, Manor Farm, £108 from Messrs Griffiths, Domgag Hall, and £105 from Messrs Williams, The Stocks.

U72 & CULL COWS: (100)

An excellent entry of 100 cattle met with another excellent trade with U72 month cows to 183p over 72 months to 160p, heifers to 171p, steers to 118p. Top price £1,275.95

Cow prices: Limousins to 183p average 134.86p/kg; Friesians to 130p average 106.42p/kg; Hereford to 135p average 112.46p/kg; others to 114p average 102.43p/kg

Heifers: Limousins to 171p average 165.05p/kg; friesian to 156p average 123.82p/kg; Hereford to 155p; Aberdeen Angus to 159p average 150.70p/kg

Steers: Hereford to 166p

A total of 100 cattle were sold to an average of 115.99p/kg.

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so the data base can be updated.

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NEWS

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Pianist to tickle the ivories at church gig

GIG GUIDE

By Chrissy Symmons

ONE OF THE most-sought after pianists in the world will be visiting an Oswestry church to tickle the ivories.

Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor will be playing music by Liszt, Bach and Chopin to audiences in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday night.

The musician is just 19 years old but is already recognised internationally for his performances.

Benjamin was first recognised after being hailed winner of the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician competition when he was eleven. Since then he has played with orchestras across the globe including the London Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony and one from Brazil.

The night starts at 7.30pm and costs £16 for adults and £8 for children.

On Friday Joe Seager will be performing at Lowerfield Inn, in Marton near Welshpool, from 8.30pm. He plays a range of his own songs and covers from well-known bands including The Beatles, Coldplay, Jack Johnson, Bob Dylan, Damien Rice and John Lennon. This is a free event.

In The Ironworks, in Church Street, on Friday night one of the UK's number one Kasabian tribute band's will be taking to the stage.

Audiences could be in for a treat as Kazabian is said to be a group of musicians and showmen who bring the house down everywhere they go. They have performed on the same stage as chart-topping bands including the Noisettes, Ollie Murs and The Holloways and have been voted best tribute act at Tribfest, Europe's tribute festival. The band will be performing from 9pm and entry costs £6 in advance or £8 on the door.

The next night, Saturday, the Ironworks will once again be playing host to a tribute band but this time it will be in the form of rockers Guns and Roses. Support comes from Oswestry's rock band Back To The Front and Cheltenham band Jeaga. The night starts at 9pm and entry is £6.

Wednesday night will see hairy-faced people visiting The Ironworks which will be hosting a special November event night. There will be live music from Juke Box Mama and thought-provoking rapping from Will Stokes. The night will also include a "Mo Factor" style best moustache competition. Assorted fake moustaches available on the door. All proceeds to charity.

If you would like to see your event in the gig guide please e-mail csymmons@shropshirestar with 'gig guide' in the subject line.



Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor will play in Holy Trinity Church

Visitors hit town to enjoy steampunk date

VISITORS FROM across the globe descended in Oswestry to take part in a cult 'steampunk' event.

Bosses of The Ironworks, in Church Street, said they were amazed to learn people had travelled thousands of miles to take part in the night.

Steampunk is a sub-genre of science fiction, alternate history, and speculative fiction.

People wearing corsets and cummerbunds arrived at the venue on November 12 when band Abney Park, from Seattle USA, performed from 9pm.

Steve Gore, from the Ironworks, said the night was a sell-out months before the

show took place. He said: "It was an awesome night and we were extremely busy."

"It was excellent and people had come from Sweden, Romania, New York and Holland."

"It was bizarre. They had all booked into hotels in the town."

Later this month, The Ironworks will be hosting a number of other events including the tribute band Kazabian, which is described as one of the UK's number one Kasabian tribute bands.

It will be arriving at the venue on November 25. Tickets cost £6 in advance and £8 on the door.

For more information visit <http://the-ironworks.co.uk>

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ARTS & GIGS

01691 668094

Phil makes final five in top awards

A PHOTOGRAPHER has reached the final five in a category of wedding industry awards after being nominated by a mystery customer.

Phil Barrett, of PBartworks in Oswestry, is scratching his head over who has nominated him for the 2012 Wedding Industry Awards but says he is flattered.

The awards are run to recognise and reward 'excellence in the wedding industry' and has a number of categories including best wedding dress designer, best wedding marquee provider and best West Midlands photographer, which Mr Barrett has been nominated for.

He said he only discovered he had been nominated after receiving an e-mail from awards officials.

He said: "It is a mystery who nominated me. No-one is putting their hands up to it and I am dying to find out who it is, but I have no idea."

"Maybe if I get to the next stage all the information will come out and then hopefully I will find out. But at the moment I have no idea."

"It is quite flattering to have been nominated. "There are some top guns in the competition so I don't envision getting any further. But being in the final five is an achievement in itself. It makes you warm and fuzzy inside."

Mr Barrett opened his business in Oswestry this week after relocating from Ellesmere. He is based above Elegant Finishing Touches, in Leg Street.

For more information visit www.pbartworks.co.uk



In the studio – wedding photographer Phil Barrett who works in Oswestry and has been shortlisted in the Wedding Industry 2012 West Midlands regional awards.

Picture: Simon Williams

You will go to the ball

THE STORY OF Cinderella will be performed in Oswestry between December 2 and 4.

Members of Oswestry Musical Theatre Company will present the show at the Marches School Theatre.

The show will start at 7.30pm on December 2 and 3 and there will be matinee performances on December 3 and 4 from 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £7 for children.

They are available from Music Makers in Chapel Court, Oswestry, by calling (01691) 654510.

Festive feel for centre

STAFF AT Oswestry's visitor centre and cafe are celebrating Christmas with crafts and choirs.

The centre will be hosting a Christmas craft shop with gifts and ideas from local artists.

There will be Christmas treats in the cafe and carols will be sung by local school choirs. There is also a plan for Oswestry U3A handbell ringers.

The centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm. For more information call (01691) 662753.

Cash helps artists learn new skills

A CASH GRANT has helped fund the start of a new group in Shropshire to help artists learn skills.

Staff at the Qube, in Oswald Road, said they are committed to making the arts accessible and are celebrating after receiving cash for the new group. The £250 cash grant has come from Oswestry and District Arts Association and the new group will run for five weeks.

The course will run for two hours every Thursday from January 26 from 6.30pm until 8.30pm.

A spokesman for the group said: "We are open to suggestions from artists as to what course they may cover."

Artists are invited to apply to help out with the group.

Anyone interested should send their CV to Qube by December 5.



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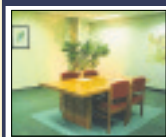
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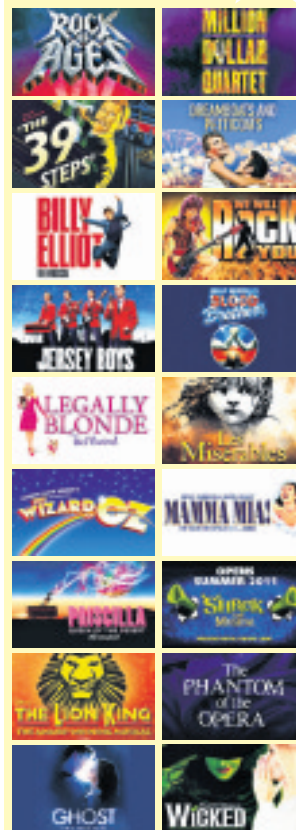
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*the "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.



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Maroon 5 featuring Christina Aguilera, Moves like Jagger
Leona Lewis, Collide
Kelly Clarkson, Mr know it all
Will Young, Come on

IT'S been a busy week on the breakfast show with a mixture of competitions and a lot of conversation about Christmas.

The team and I were kindly asked to be present for the turning on of Shrewsbury's Christmas lights which was a treat again this year. A great night was had by all including fun and games with the cast of this year's Theatre Severn panto, *Aladdin*.

This week was apparently the busiest online shopping week in time for Christmas. Not for me though, I am going to do the boring thing and wait until I get paid.

Have you been watching *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here*? Not that I am a fan of creepy crawlies but watching Sinitta on some of the challenges is just hilarious. You know it's going to be a failed attempt when she starts to scream before she's even got close to the actual box.

In local news, Oswestry Christmas Live is back on December 2, which turns the centre of Oswestry into a giant outdoor concert. The first band takes to the stage at 6pm followed by music until 10pm. The streets are closed to traffic and filled with stalls, a fun fair and other attractions. The festivities continue the following day with a Christmas parade of vehicles and festive walkers through the town from 11am in aid of charity.

As we approach Christmas, remember to let me know the information of your event or group by emailing me with all the details - we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend.

Email me neil.bentley@thesevern.co.uk or call 0333 456 0777.

Finally this week, on *Strictly Come Dancing*, Russell Grant was recently booted off the show despite having one of the most explosive entrances ever. He was fired out of a cannon and into a live routine, but ultimately failed to impress the judges. I know where he went wrong - last year, Ann Widdecombe floated onto the dance floor from the studio ceiling, so they should have got her back to perform that again but just aimed the cannon upwards. They could have met mid air and performed a dance routine of their own - now that would have been television gold!

The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn. Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at www.thesevern.co.uk

You can also hear the highlights of the show on our weekly podcast via the website.

Town aiming for Olympic mark for work on community games

THE AUTHENTIC London 2012 Olympic stamp could be put on Oswestry Community games.

Oswestrians are planning to hold their own community games in 2012 along with a culture festival in the same year the Olympics comes to London.

The Oswestry event is to take place between July 6 and July 15 next year. Now organisers are hoping to get the officials behind the London Olympics to give their stamp of approval for the town's games by awarding them an Inspire mark.

The purple logo is given to non-commercial organisations that can demonstrate its members have a project or event inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Organisers also have to show their

event is well planned and managed, fully funded by non-commercial sources, innovative and inspiring.

Susie Hancock, from the group, said the West Midlands Community Games had been given the mark and that convinced Oswestry to try for it as well.

She said: "We would like to apply for the mark so we are able to put the logo on our publicity and other things."

"That would then help us in getting grants for the event."

"The more money we can get the more exciting the event can be."

"We hope that we can get the mark because we are genuinely trying and we are genuinely inspired by the Olympics."

She said she did not know how long it would take to apply and gain the mark.

She hoped they would be taken seriously as Oswestry had been chosen as one of the towns the torch will be travelling through.

Shropshire Councillor Steve Charnley said: "If we get the mark that would be very good. We think the games are worthy of receiving it. There is a lot of planning that has been going on in the background for the games."

It is thought the Olympic flame will travel along the Gobowen Road, through the town and out along Morda Road.

The torch will be visiting 11 communities in Shropshire including Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock.

The Oswestry Games is a sports and cultural festival which will be held in the town next July to celebrate the Olympics.

Chrysler's downsized Ypsilon is far from its brash big brothers

DRIVE TIME

with Graham Breeze



THINK CHRYSLER and you normally think big. But that's no longer the case, with the arrival of the new Ypsilon.

Once you get your head around the choice of name you soon realise that this car is an attractively-styled alternative to the more run-of-the-mill superminis filling our roads at the moment – which is not the norm from the Chrysler car park.

Big, brash and arrogant is what we have come to expect from the Chrysler brand, but the Ypsilon really breaks the mould.

Chrysler chose a crowded London to demonstrate their new baby, and while travelling 20 miles in just over two hours was not an ideal start, it did give the driver the chance to appreciate just what this little car is all about.

Because this is a town car through and through – it does just what it claims on the tin. Chrysler's portfolio contains some of Europe's most recognisable vehicles, including the striking 300C saloon and top-selling Grand Voyager MPV. But now, with the help of Fiat's experience and knowledge in the small and medium-sized car sectors, Chrysler can imbue compact, more environmentally friendly models.

The Chrysler Ypsilon benefits from some of the same cutting edge engine technology that has transformed Fiat Group into a leading maker of environmentally friendly transport. All models come with the Start&Stop system as standard, and all are Euro 5 emissions compliant. In the TwinAir model, a semi-automatic five-speed gearbox can be specified.

All other models feature a five-speed manual transmission. All engines combine power with



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economy. By cutting the engine when it isn't needed, Start&Stop saves up to 15 per cent in fuel over the urban cycle.

The GSI, meanwhile, helps the driver to change gear at the optimum point for best fuel consumption.

The Ypsilon comes equipped with all the luxury you would expect from a large Chrysler, integrated with stylish European designed interiors.

As well as bringing the Chrysler name to the supermini segment, the Ypsilon introduces a host of new technologies. Possibly for the first time in this class, buyers will have access to a raft of large car features such as magic parking, xenon headlights, Fiat's Blue&Me infotainment system, TomTom satnav and the Smart Fuel System.

On top of that, depending on the trim level, buyers will be able to specify automatic climate control, fog lights, 16-inch wheels, cruise control, a leather steering wheel with audio con-



trols, dusk and rain sensors, parking sensors and a 500-watt surround sound music system.

To succeed in the increasingly popular supermini sector, Chrysler must appeal to a wide range of buyers, from down-sizers to those aiming to move up to a more luxurious model that is still affordable to buy and run.

With a five-door body shape that has the appearance of a sporty three door thanks to hidden rear door handles, the Ypsilon combines practicality with good looks and will appeal to many.

There are two petrol engines to choose from: a 68bhp 1.2 and an 84bhp turbocharged 0.9 Twinair. There's also a 94bhp 1.3 diesel, which boasts official fuel economy of 74.3mpg.

The Ypsilon's interior is solid, but I was not convinced by the soft-touch covering on the dash though all models get airbags. Standard kit includes an engine immobiliser and hazard lights that come on automatically when you brake hard.

The driver's seat is height adjustable, offering a high seating position but there is no reach adjustment on the steering wheel. I liked the interior design with centrally mounted instruments that are clear and easy to follow and a dash-mounted gear lever.

Up front, there's impressive amounts of space for two though the back has poor shoulder room if two passengers are on board. If you're a golfer you can think again – there's not

enough room for the clubs in a small boot. The Ypsilon scores points by like a three door model but really being really is a five door offering, the configuration that makes up 77 per cent of the supermini market in the UK.

Outwardly, powerful, projector-type headlights sit either side of Chrysler's new shield grille giving making it seem wider than it actually is.

Prices start at £10,695 and rise to £15,695 for the Twin-Air Auto Limited. The 1.3 M-Jet SE on test would cost you £13,195 and is economical to run at 73mpg.

Chrysler are only looking at gaining a small slice of the sector but you can't help feeling they have a job on their hands – time will tell!

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Optional final payment	£3,195.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
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MOTURING



BMW tops the poll for company cars, according to a survey by Fleet News.

Best fleet car award is given to Germans

BMW produces the most reliable company cars, according to the UK's largest vehicle reliability survey.

Commissioned by Fleet News magazine, the annual analysis of the top 50 leasing companies by fleet size in the UK asked participants to rank the best vehicles and manufacturers for reliability, with scores compiled to create a top 10 for cars.

The chosen companies have a combined fleet of more than 1.2 million vehicles, and the reliability survey is the UK's largest.

After crunching the numbers, it was discovered that German brands have caught up with Japanese cars when it comes to reliability: six German cars appear in the top 10 (three of them in the top five), while three of the top five car manufacturers for reliability are also German.

The BMW 3 Series is the most reliable company car, according to the survey, retaining its number one position from 2010, while the Honda Accord retains its second place from 2010. The Volkswagen Golf has leapt to third place from 10th, while

the Audi A3 takes fourth place after appearing outside the top 10 last year.

Two British-built cars take fifth and sixth places – the Burnaston-produced Toyota Avensis and the Sunderland-built Nissan Qashqai – while the Volkswagen Passat takes seventh place in the table, coming from outside the top 10 in 2010, with last year's third place car, the Audi A4, in eighth.

The final two places in the table are taken by two cars absent from the top 10 last year, with the Mazda 6 taking ninth place and the BMW 5 Series securing 10th place.

BMW also takes the top spot as the most reliable car manufacturer, with Audi taking second place.

Commenting on the result, Tim Abbott, managing director at BMW UK, said: "We are delighted to have won the overall honour in the FN50 reliability survey. The outgoing BMW 3 Series Saloon and the 3 Series range overall has been and continues to be an outstanding success for us. Awards such as this ensure customers can buy a class-leading vehicle safe in the knowledge that only years of enjoyable, hassle free motoring in a premium car await."

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Cars top the list of fair trade problems



SEAT is offering owners new 'pay as you go' warranty options to help suit individual needs.

Cost-cutting deal aims to help drivers

SEAT UK is offering customers a new range of pay as you go warranty options.

Operated by Mondial Assistance, one of the UK's largest motor manufacturer warranty providers, the scheme brings SEAT owners greater flexibility when choosing a policy to best suit their financial and motoring needs.

Customers now have the luxury of purchasing their SEAT Extended Warranty cover direct online. Owners can specify the level of cover they need, with a variable claim excess and the potential to include roadside assistance if required.

Affordable

Commenting on the announcement, Nigel Griggs, head of after-sales at SEAT UK, said: "Many motorists looking for ways to cut costs may see warranty as an unnecessary expense. However, Extended Warranty for SEAT customers offers an affordable cover, with policy costs starting as low as £17 per month giving protection from the unexpected motoring costs."

"The flexibility of our 'pay as you go' service means that customers can choose a product to meet their specific needs. "Payments can be made in one-off sums or monthly, allowing customers to manage their finances."

DODGY motors dominate the list of complaints to fair trade officials, it has been revealed.

In the first nine months of this year, faulty cars accounted for more than 70 per cent of the 56,000 complaints received by the Consumer Direct organisation run by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

More than 13 per cent of complaints were over misleading claims or omissions by the seller, while nearly seven per cent were about substandard services.

The OFT published the figures as it launched a Know Your Consumer Rights campaign to warn people about problems they may encounter when buying a used car.

Legitimate

An OFT study published last year found that consumers were left out of pocket by an average of £425 each, or £85 million per year in total, because they had to fix unresolved faults that were the dealers' obligation to correct.

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Tennis team aces serve up success

FOLLOWING an impressive series of matches at county level and regional knockout stage, the Ellesmere College girls and boys tennis teams have

TABLES

Border Garages Oswestry Snooker League

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	7	1	30	10	30
Cefn RGL	7	0	27	8	27	
Ex Serv E	9	0	28	19	28	
Rhos Snooker Cllb	7	5	2	20	15	20
Corwen	8	5	3	19	21	19
Ex Serv D	9	2	7	19	26	24
Ex Serv A	8	4	18	22	18	
Fleveys A	8	1	17	23	17	
Llan Rata A	8	3	5	14	26	14
Ellesmere B	8	0	10	10	10	

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ilton B	8	7	1	31	9	31
Ex Serv C	8	6	2	27	13	27
Morda	8	6	2	24	16	24
Four Crosses	8	3	22	18	22	
Ilton	8	5	3	21	21	21
Chirk	8	4	19	21	19	
Llanhaeadr	8	4	18	22	18	
Ex Serv B	8	9	14	28	14	
Llanhaeadr B	8	2	6	12	28	12
Llangynog	8	1	7	12	28	12

Montgomeryshire Air Gun League

Gulfield A 204.3, Castle Caeonion 194.5, Four Crosses 199.2, Llanfair Caeonion 200.5, Gulfield B 193.9, Ardleen 206.0.
Patrols scored: R Morgan (Castle Caeonion), R Lewis (Ardleen), D Williams (Llanfair), A Lawrence (Gulfield A), D Smith (Gulfield A) 35.5, P Phillips (Gulfield A) 35.4, T Williams (Llanfair) 35.3, A Evans (Gulfield B) 35.2.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ardleen	4	4	0	206.4	8	
Gulfield A	2	1	0	200.1	8	
Castle Caeonion	5	3	2	194.4	6	
Llanfair Caeonion	5	2	3	196.7	4	
Gulfield B	5	2	3	193.7	4	
Four Crosses	5	2	3	193.6	4	
Churchstoke	3	1	2	203.3	2	
Crew Green	4	0	4	195.7	0	

Welshpool Dominoes League

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Pinewood C	9	8	1	41	29	
Pinewood A	10	4	4	41	29	
Pinewood Dragons	9	7	2	40	23	
Social Club A	9	5	4	37	26	
Sun Inn	9	3	3	37	26	
Cock P/A	10	5	5	36	34	
G/Garrett Butt B	10	5	5	34	36	
Railway	9	5	3	33	30	
Cells	9	4	5	28	35	
C/Garrett Butt A	9	3	6	26	37	
Powis Arms P/O	9	3	6	26	37	
Compasses	9	3	6	25	38	
RAF Boys	9	1	8	13	50	

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Waterloo	10	9	1	55	15	
Kings Head	10	8	2	48	22	
Cock A	10	7	3	42	28	
Westwood Ward	10	7	3	41	29	
Bredon	10	6	4	40	30	
Muriels Bunch	10	6	4	39	31	
Dragonflies	10	6	4	39	31	
Bowling Club	10	5	5	35	35	
Talbot	10	5	5	32	38	
Horseshoe	10	3	7	28	42	
Angel	10	3	7	27	43	
Westwood	10	2	8	25	45	
Grapes	10	2	8	23	47	
Wellington	10	1	9	15	55	

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	9	8	0	38	16	17
Bel Oswestry	9	5	4	34	20	13
Horseshoe Lion	9	5	3	30	24	11
Black Lion A	9	4	5	28	26	11
Cross Keys Kinn	9	4	3	30	24	10
White Lion Llyn	9	4	3	27	27	10
Top White Lion	9	5	4	27	27	10
Bradford Arms	9	3	3	29	25	9
Royal Oak	9	4	4	26	28	9
Railway Inn	8	3	5	22	26	6
Penybont Inn	8	2	4	20	28	6
Plas Yn Dinas B	9	2	5	21	33	6
Plas Yn Dinas A	9	2	6	22	32	5
Black Horse	9	0	9	18	36	1

Horseshoe 4, Plas Yn Dinas 2, A 4, Cross Keys 2; Royal Oak 2, Bell 4; Railway Inn 4, White Lion Llyn 2; Penybont Inn 4; Black Lion B 5; Black Horse 2; Top White Lion 4; Plas Yn Dinas 0, Bradford Arms 6.

Horseshoe 4, Plas Yn Dinas 4, Black Lion A 4, Cross Keys 2, Royal Oak 2, Bel A, Railway Inn 4, White Lion Lyn 2, Penybont Inn 1, Black Lion B 5, Black Horse 2, Top White Lion 4, Plas Yn Dinas 0, Bradford Arms 6.



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Lavender leads the way with sweet smell of Bowl success

ATHLETICS

by John Bridgwater

ALISON Lavender led the way as Oswestry Olympians celebrated their end of season presentation with several athletes taking top accolades.

Lavender took the honour of Ladies Rose Bowl champion, she also picked up four other honours including the club's cross country champion.

Ian Lowe became the mens Rose Bowl Champion after improving his combined times by over 15 minutes compared to his last season times. The Rose Bowl is awarded to the runner with the season's best times over half marathon, 10k. And the 5k times are added together and the fastest total wins.

Mens and womens winners: 1 Ian Lowe 2:22:00, 1 Alison Lavender 2:16:53; 2 Stephen Roberts 2:22:39, 2 Lauren Davies 2:40:53; 3 Ryan Stokes 2:25:35, 3 Jackie Jarvis 2:44:34.

Fastest 5k, best season time against the 5 STAR chart for 5k: 1st man Peter Butler, 1st lady Alison Lavender; 2nd man tephen Roberts, 2nd lady Vvome Hill; 3rd man Harvey Morgan 3rd lady Barbara Ward.

Fastest 10k, best season time against the 5 STAR chart for 10k: 1st Man Paul Jones, 1st Lady Alison Lavender; 2nd Man Steve Roberts 2nd lady Barbara Ward; 3rd Man Peter Butler 3rd Lady Jackie Jarvis.

Fastest

Fastest Half Marathon, best season time against the 5 STAR chart for half marathon: 1st Man Stephen Roberts, 1st Lady Alison Lavender; 2nd Man Garry Owen 2nd lady Jackie Jarvis; 3rd Man Ian Lowe, 3rd Lady Charlotte Williams.

Fastest Marathon, best season time against the 5 STAR chart for half marathon: 1st Man Steve Roberts, 1st Lady Jackie Jarvis; 2nd Man Leon Dallow 2nd lady Sam Brown; 3rd Man Richard Garbett 3rd Lady. Best Improved over 5k, 10k, half Marathon against times for the series from the previous season: 1st Man Ian Lowe 0:15:37, 1st Lady Alison Lavender 0:03:27.

Qualified for next year: Ian Lowe, Steve Roberts, Dave Newton, Ryan Stokes, Jon Snell, Rob Whittall, Simon Hibbott, Neil Ballard, Richard Garbutt, Steve Humphreys, Alison Lavender, Lauren Davies & Jackie Jarvis.

Cross Country, There are awards for the best three women and best three men. This is based on the total of the best four out of five positions in the North Wales League. 1st Man Peter Butler, 1st Woman Ali Lavender; 2nd Paul Jones, 2nd Susie Hancock; 3rd Steve Roberts.

Oswestry on target for victory in league

THE second Shropshire Sportshall League meeting was held at Much Wenlock Leisure Centre. Oswestry Olympain under 15 boys team were clear winners in their age group with 84.5 points on the day and took favourites to win overall at the end of the series.

Results: U11G: Kate Pugh 2nd (A) 2 laps hurdles 27.6s, 5th 6 laps Paarlau 1.33.0m, Katie Garratt 4th (A) 2 laps 30.0s, 8th Standing Long Jump 1.48m, Maisy Williams 5th 6 laps Paarlau, 5th Standing Long Jump 1.64m Team fifth.

U11B: Richard Jandrell 4th (A) 2 laps hurdles 29.3s, 1st 6 laps Paarlau 1.20.3m, Daniel Jones 5th (A) 2 laps 29.5s, 7th Standing Longjump 1.71m, David Jones 5th (B) 2 laps 31.4s, 8th Chest Push 4.00m, Jacob Tidridge 1st 6 laps Paarlau 1.20.3m, 2nd Standing Long Jump 2.06m, 4x2 laps relay 4th, Team fourth.

U13G: Savannah Nicoll Davies 5th (A) 2 laps 27.0s, 9th Standing Triple Jump 5.10m, Charlotte Pugh 4th (B) 2 laps 26.9s, 5th 8 laps Paarlau 1.57.3m, Maya Hughes 4th (A) 4 laps 57.2s, 8th Standing triple jump 5.21m, Lzzy Burton 4th (B) 4 laps 61.8s, 7th Vertical Jump 38, Zara Baker 5th 8 laps Paarlau 1.57.3m, 8th Vertical Jump 35, 4x2 laps relay 5th, Team fifth.

U13B: Oliver Pugh 4th (A) 2 laps 26.0s, 1st (A) 4 laps 52.2s Team fourth. U15B: Leo Read 2nd (A) 2 laps 22.1s, 1st (A) 4 laps 48.2s, 2nd Shot 9.23m, Edward Ellis-Cooper 1st (B) 2 laps 23.2s, 1st (B) 4 laps 50.3, 1st = Speed Bounce 74, George Duncan 2nd 8 laps Paarlau 1.39.7m, 5th Shot 9.23m, James Morris 2nd 8 laps Paarlau 1.39.7m, 5th Shot 7.72m, 4x2 laps relay 1st, Team first.



Top marathon performer – that's Jackie Jervis picks up her award from head of seniors Paul Davies



Rose Bowl Champion Ian Lowe collects his prize from Olympians' head of seniors Paul Davies



Half marathon champion Steve Roberts picks up his award from head of seniors Paul Davies



All smiles – 5km champion Paul Butler collects his award from head of seniors Paul Davies.

Olympians show up well in Deeside race

IT WAS a great turn out for Oswestry Olympians at a new venue in the North Wales Cross Country League.

The senior men moved to the top of League 2 after and the Senior Ladies secured second in League 1 after some strong performances throughout the team at Deeside.

Special note for Peter Butler, Paul Jones and Ian Lowe – top 30 finishers in the men's race – and Ali Lavender, Daisy Tickner, Kim Collins and Ali Tickner – top 30 finishers in the Ladies race. The next race is at Lilleshall on the January 14.

Results: Senior Men: 1 R Samuel Eryri 30m 32s, 4 P Butler Oswestry 31m 56s, 10 P Jones M40 Oswestry 32m 25s, 30 I Lowe M40 Oswestry 35m 05s, 62 S Roberts M50 Oswestry 37m 53s, 71 N Bevan M40 Oswestry 38m 14s, 82 C Evans U20 Oswestry 39m 25s, 85 N Blake M50 Oswestry 39m 36s, 93 R Collins M40 Oswestry 40m 15s, 101 P Davies M45 Oswestry 40m 51s, 125 M Bastow M40 Oswestry 42m 42s, 131 R Whittall Oswestry 43m 19s, 142 D Hughes M45 Oswestry 44m 44s.

Senior Women@ 1 A Lavender Oswestry 17m 03s, 14 D Tickner U17 Oswestry 19m 34s, 22 K Collins W45 Oswestry 20m 37s, 27 A Tickner W45 Oswestry 20m 48s, 34 Y Hill W45 Oswestry 21m 11s, 42 J Jarvis W45 Oswestry 21m 27s, 46 S Hancock W50 Oswestry 21m 53s, 47 S Greaves W50 Oswestry 21m 57s, 54 L Morgan Oswestry 22m 35s.

Division One: 1 Eryri Harriers 56pts (170pts), 2 Oswestry Olympians AAC 64pts (200pts), 3 Tattenhall Runners 75pts (224pts). Division Two: 1 Oswestry Olympians AAC 259pts (735pts), 2 Deeside AAC 259pts (732pts), 3 Bangor University AAC 261pts (649pts).

Male Masters Teams: 1 Shrewsbury AC 37pts (113pts), 2 Oswestry Olympians AAC 40pts (123pts), 3 Merionydd RC 59pts. Lady masters team results: 1 Eryri Harriers 24pts (71pts), 2 Tattenhall Runners 41 Pts (100pts), 3 Wrexham AAC 51pts (144pts), 4 Oswestry Olympians AAC 56pts (127pts).



Kim Collins and Charles Evans with the special triathlon award.



Paul Jones receives his award for becoming 10k champion from head of seniors Paul Davies

SPORT

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PLACINGS

SWALEC League

DIVISION 2 NORTH

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dolgellau	9	8	1	270	78	39	
COBRA	10	9	1	194	111	37	
Rhyl	8	6	2	302	91	31	
Colwyn Bay	10	6	4	203	166	30	
Llanidloes	10	5	5	199	181	23	
Denbigh	10	4	6	146	204	21	
Abergele	10	4	6	163	251	19	
Machynlleth	10	4	6	130	312	18	
Newtown	9	1	7	126	212	8	
Wrexham	10	0	10	101	318	3	

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Shotton Steel	8	6	0	432	63	39	
Rhosafrenchlog	8	5	3	247	90	32	
Llangollen	7	6	1	253	73	29	
Harleth	8	5	3	253	223	25	
Flint	8	5	3	221	211	23	
Menai Bridge	9	4	5	164	266	21	
Wellshead	8	3	5	156	272	13	
Benelech	8	2	6	66	172	10	
Hollyhead	7	1	6	71	268	5	
Bangor	9	0	9	43	467	1	
Cae Benard	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Llangold	0	0	0	0	0	0	

SOUTH LANCs/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Douglas IOM	11	10	0	1	8	48	
Crews & Nantwich	12	10	0	2	7	47	
Ruskin Park	12	9	0	3	45	45	
Oswestry	11	9	0	2	8	44	
Sefron	12	7	0	5	2	30	
Vestgates IOM	10	5	4	8	30	30	
Dukinfield	12	5	1	6	7	29	
Southport	12	5	0	7	5	25	
Sackville	12	5	0	7	5	20	
Oldershaw	12	3	4	5	1	17	
Ellesmere Port	11	4	0	7	1	17	
Moore	12	1	8	6	15	15	
Ramsay IOM	11	2	1	8	3	8	
Trentham	12	1	1	10	3	4	

Forwards take the honours as leaders knocked off top spot

Shackled Lions are downed in own den

SHOCKWAVES in the Andrew's Fish Bar Premier Division as bottom placed Argae Hall defeat the League leaders Breidden Lions in their own den!

The Montgomery outfit stunned their previously unbeaten hosts in Middle-town 6-4, and secure their first victory of the campaign in the process. The only other unbeaten record in the Premiership was the Cock A Forden, but that's broken too as they lose 7-3 at home to the new league leaders, the Oak A Guilsfield. The Talbot D rise to 2nd after they rallied with two late frames to draw with the Pheasant Nomads, but it's as you were for 5th placed Angel A & 7th placed Cobra Meifodas they draw also (Cobra supplying the venom with two late strikes of their own). Rising to mid table respectability are the Court-house Judges (Churchstoke with back to back league wins now) with a sound 8-2 home win over the Angel B, and the Castle Boys (Castle Caereinion) taking an important 6-4 win over the Lions Llansantffraid.

Maintain

In the Fish Bar Division 1, the Punchbowl A Llandrinio stay top with a 7-3 home win over the Welly Dukes, but the Talbot Top dogs maintain chase with a 6-4 away win at the Pheasant B. The Horseshoe & Jockey jump 2 places to 3rd with a big 8-2 win over the Herbert Arms Chirbury, but the Breidden Tigers slip a place as they draw with the Callow Inn Bromlow. In other games the Cock Brockton rise 3 places to sit just behind the Talbot Flunkies with a good 7-3 home result over them, and the Westwood Warriors battled out a fine 6-4 win over the Cock B.

The biggest results of the week were all in the Fish Bar Division 2, as no less than three teams record massive 9-1 wins! Staying Top are the Lion Llansantffraid with a 9-1 score over the Court-house B, but keeping up the pace are the Black Lion Llanfair with an amazing 9-1 score of their own over (at the time) 4th placed Lowfield Inn Marton! The Horseshoe Ardlen also win 9-1 over the Welly Wasps and rise 2 places to 5th, but a 5-5 draw for 3rd placed Crown A with 13th placed Dragon Buttington came as quite a shock for the home side. The Social Club B were also held to a 5-5 draw with the Westwood Slaybers but the Punchbowl B make light of some missing players with a large 8-2 win over the Crown Studs. Finally, the King's Head Guilsfield had a 2-0 start over a player short Pinewood Tavern team last week, but had to work for their last frame victory and 6-4 home win.

Andrews Fishbar

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Oak A	8	6	1	57	33	14	
Talbot D	8	6	1	56	24	13	
Breidden Lions	8	5	3	53	13	13	
Cock A	8	4	4	49	31	13	
Pheasant Nomads	9	5	3	54	36	11	
Angel A	9	4	5	51	10	11	
Cobra	8	2	4	40	40	8	
C'rhouse Judges	8	3	4	36	44	7	
Churchstoke	8	3	5	33	47	7	
The Lions Laid	8	0	3	35	45	4	
Socialites	8	1	6	31	49	3	
King's Head	9	2	7	24	56	4	
Angel B	8	1	7	23	57	2	

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Punchbowl A	8	6	1	49	31	16	
Talbot Topdogs	8	6	2	46	32	12	
King's Head	9	5	3	53	11	11	
Breidden Tigers	9	4	4	48	34	10	
Oak B	8	3	4	46	34	9	
Courthouse	8	3	5	41	31	9	
Talbot Flunkies	8	4	4	46	34	8	
Cock Brockton	8	3	4	40	40	8	
Cock B	9	3	5	36	41	10	
Pheasant B	8	2	3	39	41	7	
Westwood Warriors	8	2	3	34	46	7	
Welly Dukes	9	2	5	42	48	6	
Herbert Arms	8	1	6	44	60	0	

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Lion Llansantffraid	9	8	1	59	31	16	
Black Lion Lfr	9	6	1	63	27	14	
Crown A	9	5	1	51	39	13	
King's Head	9	5	1	51	32	13	
Lowfield	9	4	2	54	36	11	
Horseshoe	9	5	3	44	44	11	
Pinewood B	9	4	3	46	38	10	
Punchbowl B	9	4	4	48	42	9	
Westwood Slaybers	9	3	4	43	47	8	
King's Head	9	3	5	39	52	8	
Crown Studs	9	3	6	37	53	6	
Dragon Buttington	9	1	6	35	55	6	
Pinewood	9	2	7	34	66	4	
Welly Wasps	9	0	8	20	70	1	

OSWESTRY chalked up their sixth straight win with an excellent performance to beat former league leaders Ruskin Park to keep up the title pressure in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

Tries from forwards Ollie Wilford, Tom Thorpe and Sam Wright wrapped up a thrilling 15-8 victory for the Eagles who are now fourth in the table – and four points off top spot.

Club Spokesman Steve Charnley said: "This was a terrific win against good opposition, the forwards were immense and deserved the three tries."

The victory came with a price however with centre Chris Roberts leaving the club in an ambulance after badly dislocating his collarbone.

With the two best defences in the league this was always going to be a close game, and so it proved.

St Helens side Ruskin Park took to the pitch with a confidence of the league leaders who were winging rugby.

Oswestry signalled their intentions by driving their opponents off their own ball in a scrum early on, but with both sides tackling well chances were in short supply.

The hosts went close on 18 minutes when Andy Howell kicked high and followed up well to retake the ball.

He quickly passed to Tyler Morris who broke into the Ruskin 22 but his pass to Wright did not quite go to hand.

Ruskin Park's scrum now came under real pressure with the home front five of Andrew Smith, Guy Howell, Mike Keavney, Graham Fox and Wilford in total dominance.

Their pressure eventually paid off when forcing the visitors to concede penalties from scrums, and eventually they pushed over the line for Wilford to touch down.

Both sides were keen to play good, attacking rugby, and Ruskin reduced the arrears on the half hour with a penalty.

And they went ahead with an unconverted try just before half time, with the winger scoring in the corner despite good defence from Rob Massam.

Undaunted, the Eagles started the second half with pressure on Ruskin Park from a scrum five metres out, which eventually led to Thorpe crashing over.

Superb

Howell, who had narrowly missed both conversions, showed his kicking out of hand ability with a kick of 70 metres to put the ball into the Ruskin 22 to turn defence into attack.

And a superb chase by Sam Martin and Wright saw Martin rip the ball from an opponent's grasp before passing to Wright who crossed in the corner for a 15-8 lead.

Ruskin did not want to go down without a fight and, following a flare-up between players where several punches were thrown, a player from each side was yellow carded.

The visitors were now showing some good attacking flair but the Oswestry defence were in no mood to concede any more points.

Nathan Parker came on to replace Fox and his first act in the game was to tackle and turn over the Ruskin No 8.

From the scrum, Howell released the backs with Masam going on a 70 metres charge deep into the Ruskin 22.

Again another scuffle took place and two more yellow cards were shown.

This was probably one of the best games of rugby played at Park Hall for a good while with Oswestry showing their title credentials.

The Eagles have no league game on Saturday but hope to play their Shropshire Cup match against RAF Cosford.

RUGBY

by John Bridgwater

COBRA put the squeeze on title rivals

COBRA reflected on a job well done after keeping up the title pressure in the Welsh League division two (north) with a solid 20-0 win over Machynlleth – making it nine wins out of 10 this season.

Despite the victory, they remain two points adrift of Dolgellau, who themselves are top after their 30-10 win at Llanidloes.

The Meifod men now head to Abergele on Saturday looking to maintain their title drive in what could prove a big weekend as the two teams in third and fourth respectively, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay, also come face to face.

"We lost at Abergele in the last game of last season so we've got a score to settle," said COBRA coach James Watkin.

"It's important we keep winning to keep up the pressure."

"They've not been playing well of late but had a good win against Wrexham last Saturday."

Bonus

"If we play like last week it's a game we should win, and – with eight games remaining – the title could come down to how we get on against teams around us in the table."

"What could count against us is that we've not picked up as many bonus points as we would have liked, unlike some of the other teams."

Reflecting on the Mach win, Watkin added: "It was a good win but our dominance was not reflected on the scoreboard."

"On other days, had we really clicked, we could have had 40 or 50 points."

"We were always in control in terms of territory and possession."

"We've been a bit hit and miss lately, but this was a far better performance."

Youngsters power on

COBRA's youngsters continue to do well in the North Wales Youth League division one with a 47-3 romp against Rhyl.

They are still unbeaten, winning eight and drawing one, to set the pace at the top.

Despite holding the upper hand for most part, COBRA had to wait until the half hour mark before taking the lead with a Llew Williams penalty.

And on the stroke of half time they added a deserved try when prop Nico Williams spotted a gap to power over following a spell of pressure on the Mach line, Llew Williams adding the conversion.

The encounter followed a similar pattern in the second half with the Llanfair Caereinion side allowing their rivals little room for manoeuvre.

Williams increased the lead with a second penalty and victory was sealed when No8 Dorian Lloyd went over against his old club following a forward drive from a line-out.

Williams again converted to complete the success.



Criftons youngsters are all smiles watched by coach Peter Todd and Kay Egerton



Kay Egerton with Abi and Jessica Kershaw at the presentation evening



Kay Egerton presents Matthew Lee with a shield and trophy for his efforts



Kay Egerton and Peter Todd with the Criftons mini orange team

Awards night at club

More than 80 people attended the Criftons Tennis Club Annual Awards evening.

Chairman of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council and former member Kay Egerton was the guest of honour at the weekend event.

Kay reflected on her memories of the club from its infancy in 1972 as a member when the courts were opened, and said she looked forward to its 40th anniversary in 2012.

Trophies awarded at finals day in September were then presented to the winners and runners up by Kay.

Head Coach Peter Todd talked about the junior awards, and the successes of the juniors at County Aegon level, and the mini red team in winning a County event recently held at Welft in Shrewsbury.

The juniors had been well represented in the adult teams, and this gave the club every hope for the future.

He talked about Matthew Lee's success in going to Wimbledon and receiving coaching from Tim Henman in August.

Club Captain Tush Maitra talked about the achievements of the players through the year, while chairman Clive Knight reflected on the seven summer league teams taking

part in the Shropshire Double League.

He congratulated Men's 1 for winning Group 2, particularly the pairing of brothers Amar and Arjun Singh who won all their matches.

He also noted the excellent results of the Autumn Mixed doubles teams who had both hopefully gained promotions.

Four volunteers Tim Hunter, Dawn Dyke, Liz McBrien and Sheila Williams were thanked for their important contributions to supporting the club, and presented with individual awards.

Knight also thanked the committee for their support and hard work in helping to take the club forward with thanks to David Southern, Sue Southern, Pat Williams, Tush Maitra, Peter Todd, and Gill Hill.

Special awards went to the following juniors and adults: Most improved boy: Lawrence Bowen, Most improved girl: Abi and Jess Kershaw.

Boys Cup for Enjoyment on and off court: Oliver Harris, Girls Cup for Endeavour on and off court: Jasmine Tickner.

Most improved man: James Beddoe, Most improved lady: Karen Lawrence.

Nomads no match for happy seconds

WHILE their first team maintained their winning run, Oswestry's second string also turned on the style to sweep aside Acton Nomads 43-19 in the University of Salford NWL Division Four (South).

Nomads arrived as one of the title favourites, but were outplayed as the home backs proved too hot to handle, putting their side in good heart for Saturday's cup clash at Northwich.

The Eagles opened the scoring when Gaz Hughes benefited from some excellent link play to score under the posts, Dan Williams converting.

The home back line sensed that they had the upper hand and Kevin Evans soon created space and scored his side's second, following some great inter-play between forwards and backs, Williams converted.

The Nomads gradually found their feet and made good ground upfield and their forwards drove over the line to score a converted try.

Oswestry replied with Rich McFie touching down, Williams converting again.

The Eagles were now playing with confidence and scrum half Tom Bowker made a great run down the left wing and found young gun Phil Drury in support who crashed over to score an unconverted try to make it 26-7 at the break.

Coach Rich Lumby made several changes at half-time, but this did nothing to stop the hunger for tries.

Luke Parkes went on a mazy run to score a brilliant try on the left wing, with the conversion drifting wide.

Oswestry's youthful front row of McFie, McMuff and Northwood were now dominating the scrummage and loose play, creating sustained pressure on the visitors before the ball was fed wide for Hughes to sneak in for his second try. Williams converted.

The game now won, Oswestry relaxed and allowed Acton to score a simple converted try. Not to be outdone Sapper Howell managed to score a solo try, which was due reward for his constant sniping runs. Williams again converted.

Pool prevail with rearguard action

WELSHPOOL climbed out of the basement places in the Welsh League division three (north) with a closely fought 10-7 win over Benllech.

There was little between the sides in the middle of the game, and there was little to choose between them in an evenly matched affair at Maesydd.

Chances were at a premium but, just when it looked likely that the first half would end without a point on the board, the visitors from Anglesey struck when crossing the line following

a break upfield, the try being converted.

Trailing 7-0 at the interval, Pool battled hard to get back into the game with No 8 Alan Roberts holding fort at the back of the scrum.

Daly Jones reduced the arrears with a penalty, and the fly half then grabbed a key try when finishing off a move the length of the pitch to touch down and also added the conversion as Pool nudged ahead.

Benllech did their utmost to try and

retrieve the game in the last five minutes, and lay siege to the home line, but Pool held firm for a welcome win.

Club secretary Gary Williams was heartened with what he saw after the team's third win of the season, praising "a good rearguard effort" in the closing moments as the Montgomeryshire side took the spoils.

They now face a tricky try to Flint on Saturday, with the Deesiders lying two places above them in sixth position in the table.

Ladies in goal rampage

OSWESTRY Ladies turned up the title heat in the Cheshire Womens League division four with a 19-0 mauling of basement side Deeside Ramblers III.

Their sixth win of the campaign lifted the border side up to third place, just three points off the leaders, Bollington, whom they meet in a top of the table showdown at Marches School on Saturday.

Team manager Tracey Royle led the way with a seven-goal haul against the rockers Ramblers, putting her side on course by netting the first in the opening few minutes as they raced into an 11-0 interval lead.

HOCKEY

by John Bridgwater

Deeside battled hard but had no answer to the cutting edge of their rivals, with Sandra Jones weighing in with five goals in the one-sided affair.

Centre half Lisa Bladen joined in the spree with a hat-trick while there were two goals apiece for Sarah Lowe and Debra Jones.

Spirits are high for the weekend's crunch clash, but Oswestry are anticipating a stern test, particularly as the defence will be missing Bladen who is out through work. The sides met earlier in the season and finished 0-0.

City blow for seconds

OSWESTRY men's II had no action in the North Wales League as scheduled opponents Bangor City II have pulled out of the league.

After two blank weekends, the border side will be keen to get back playing again and are due to visit Colwyn Bay IV on Sunday.

Oswestry have made a solid start to the campaign and currently sit third in the league table after their opening five matches of the season.

Oswestry crash to defeat

TEN-MAN Oswestry's hopes of climbing up the ENER-G West Midlands hockey division two suffered a setback when crashing 10-2 at a strong Ludlow team.

The writing was on the wall early on with the first half starting badly for the visitors, who turned up one player down, as Ludlow piled on the pressure right from the start, resulting in them scoring three goals in quick succession.

Oswestry responded by making better use of their possession, and creating some useful counter-attacks.

They improved their defensive play, holding off the home side until Ludlow scored a deflection close to half time, and then adding a fifth soon after.

Despite the scoreline, the border side were determined to pick up their game in the second half.

They started off brightly passing the ball around well which saw them win a short corner which Rory Jones converted with a drag flick.

Oswestry continued to play better hockey and scored a second goal on their next attack when Matt Smart's top D strike found the back of the goal.

With the pace of the game increasing as both teams played counter-attacking hockey the Oswestry team started to tire, feeling the effects of being one man down.

This allowed Ludlow to start to dominate the game again making use of their one man advantage which allowed them to overload the visitors defence, resulting in them scoring another five goals.

Oswestry hope to put this performance behind them when they play Barlaston at home on Saturday.

PLACINGS

Sportsjamkits.com County Premier League
Premier Division: Broseley Juniors 2, FC Halesford 2, Church Stretton 1, Dawley Villa 0, Ellesmere Rangers Reserves 2, Newport Town 3, Shifnal United 97 1, Ludlow Town 1, Telford Juniors 0, Morda United 2, Impact United 1, Wellington amateur Reserves 15, Whitchurch Alport Reserves 0, Kellie Bank 3.
Division one: Alcock 5, Shawbury United Reserves 1, Brown Clee 3, Rock Rovers 2, Hanwood United Reserves 5, Cleve 5, 218 22, 1, Ludlow Town Reserves 2, Oakengates Athletic 0, Oswestry Lions 5, Pres 2, Wrockwast Wood Juniors 0, Western Rhyn 5, Meole Brace 0, Wroxeter Rovers 2, Bishops Castle Town 1.

PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts				
Newport Town	14	10	3	23	17	31				
FC Hordnet	14	8	2	29	16	28				
Telford Jns	13	7	1	25	12	26				
Kettley Bank Utd	11	7	0	20	6	25				
Ludlow Town	14	7	5	30	19	23				
Morda Utd	14	6	4	21	22	22				
Shifnal Utd '97	13	5	5	22	19	18				
Church Stretton	15	4	6	28	17	17				
Dawley Villa	12	4	4	24	23	16				
Ellesmere Rhngs Rs	14	4	7	24	25	15				
Wellington Ams Rs	13	3	6	19	12	13				
Brosley Jns	11	2	8	11	26	7				
Whitchurch Alp Rs	11	1	8	15	24	5				
Impact Utd	13	1	10	9	43	5				

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hanwood Utd Rls	14	10	3	35	25	31
Alcock	12	9	0	43	19	30
Rock Rovers	14	8	3	35	16	27
Weston Rhyn	12	8	2	27	22	26
Wroxeter Rovers	13	8	4	42	24	25
Oakengates AFB	12	7	4	31	20	22
Oswestry Lions	13	6	4	28	16	21
Pres	14	6	3	34	26	20
Meole Brace	13	6	5	34	32	20
Shawbury Utd Rls	13	5	4	28	20	19
Brown Clee	13	4	7	28	45	15
Bishops Castle Tn	12	3	5	19	30	13
Wrock Wood Jnr	14	2	11	27	27	9
Ludlow Town Rls	13	2	10	22	37	7
Hopesgate Utd	12	2	9	19	37	7
Clee Hill	14	1	11	17	49	5

J. T. Hughes Montgomeryshire League

Llanidloes Town League Cup, round one: Llanidloes 2, Trefonen 5.
Honda Division one: Berriem Res 0, Guilford Res 4 (Luke Weaver 2, Luke Francis 2), Oly Morgan, Dai Walsh, Bethew 7 (Jack Owen 2, Jones Vaughan, Alex Hughes 2, Paul Lloyd, Richard Williams, Mark Thomas), Llanisraff Res 3 (James Martin 2, Byn Jones (pen), Llanisraff Res 4 (Mike Roberts 2, Boris Martinez, Joe Makinson), Llanidloes Res 0.

Mitsubishi Division two: Abernethy Res 0, Four Crosses Res 1, Morda Res 1 (Oly Jackson), Llanidloes Res 1 (Dalyd Williams), Waterbo Coks (James Watkins 2, Paul Jones), Newtown Wanderers 4 (Brett McBride 2, Austin Oliver, Jamie Smart).

Oliver, Jamie Smart)

HONDA DIVISION 1													
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Caersws Res	10	7	2	32	15	22							
Gulifield Res	9	6	2	33	19	20							
Llangedwyn	7	6	0	18	4	19							
Llanhaeadr Res	11	6	5	27	24	18							
Llanidloes Res	10	6	4	24	27	18							
Bettws	10	5	5	25	27	15							
Llansantffraid Res	8	4	2	22	20	14							
Llanfachan	7	3	3	14	12	10							
Carno Res	7	3	4	14	14	9							
Waterloo Res	11	2	7	13	26	8							
Churchstoke	8	2	6	15	20	6							
Berriew Res	10	0	10	6	44								

MITSUBISHI DIVISION 2						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Res.....	10	6	2	27	18	20
Four Crosses Res.....	11	6	3	21	14	20
Newtown Wand.....	12	6	4	27	28	20
Morda Res.....	10	5	1	27	11	19
Trefonen.....	10	4	3	37	23	15
Newtown Res.....	10	4	4	21	19	14
Waterloo Colts.....	12	3	7	22	34	11
Llandrinio.....	9	3	5	15	18	10
Abermule Res.....	12	3	8	18	34	10
Kerry Res.....	10	3	6	13	29	10

Spar Mid Wales League
Division one: Bow Street 1, Montgomery 6, Dolgellau 4, Wellingdon 2, Dyffryn Ewre 2, Twyn Brynryd 4, Aberystwyth 2, Berriem 0, Waterbo 5, Sully Wells 2.
Division two: Aberdilly 5, Prestegyn 1, Bort 2, Abernethy 3, Four Crosses 3, Llanidloes 0, Kington 1, Machynlleth 1, Llanidloes 1, Kery 1, Rhosgob 4, Trefonen 4, Talgarth 4, Melford 1.

Method 1.

DIVISION 1													
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Rhayader	4	10	2	55	21	32							
Montgomery	13	10	4	44	31	31							
Llanidloes	12	8	4	42	14	25							
Waterbo	15	6	8	39	25	25							
Buill Wells	11	7	4	20	17	21							
Newbridge	9	6	1	20	11	20							
Berriem	14	6	6	25	20	20							
Bow Street	13	6	6	27	35	19							
Carno	10	5	4	18	16	16							
Dolgellau	10	4	5	22	20	16							
Llanidloes	16	4	8	24	37	16							
TwynBrynryd	12	4	6	21	23	14							
Dyffryn Banw	14	2	7	19	39	11							
Aber Uthi	12	2	9	10	30	7							
Wellingdon	15	1	12	17	55	5							

Welshpool	15	1	12	17	55	5
DIVISION 2						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Four Crosses	13	10	3	47	23	30
Knighton	14	8	4	37	20	26
Kerry	15	6	3	22	22	24
Llanfair Utd	10	7	2	29	9	22
Llandrindod Wells	10	6	1	22	6	21
Aberaron	9	6	1	27	11	20
Machynlleth	12	6	4	34	26	20
Talgarth	14	6	7	37	38	19
Abermule	14	5	5	31	32	19
Aberdilly	13	5	6	37	30	17

Welsh Beef & Lamb Mid Wales Youth League
Waterbo Rovers 0, Newtown 2 (L. Murnford, J. Sharnan).

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Waterloo.....	7	4	2	24	17	13
Penrynchoc.....	5	4	0	14	8	13
Newtown.....	5	4	1	13	7	12
TNS.....	3	2	1	17	2	6
Llanidloes.....	6	2	4	11	22	6
Caeuws.....	6	1	4	11	1	4
Llanymynech.....	6	0	5	7	24	1

**The Roche North
Shropshire League**

League Cup, round one: Malpas 3
Oswestry Bell 5; Ironworks 1, Dudleston Heath 8.

League: Black Lion Colts 3, Athletic Mar

The Roche North Shropshire League
League Cup, round one: Malpas 3, Oswestry Bell 5, Ironworks 1, Duddleston Heath 8.
League Cup, round one: Malpas 3, Oswestry Bell 5, Ironworks 1, Duddleston Heath 8.
The Oak... 10 8 1 1 50 25
Duddleston Heath... 9 6 2 1 37 20
Caeuws... 9 6 2 1 37 20
Cross Foxes... 9 5 2 2 17 20
Black Lion Colts... 9 4 1 4 -13
Bishops Castle... 8 3 1 4 -15
Athletic Market... 8 3 1 4 -15
Ironworks... 9 0 8 61 3
Llanidloes... 9 0 8 59 0

Bell fight back to take cup victory

Malpas 3 Oswestry Bell 5

OSWESTRY Bell came from a goal down to beat Malpas 5-3 away, and book their place in the semi-finals of the North Shropshire League Cup.

Lee Parry gave Malpas an eighth minute lead with Josh Thomas equalizing for the Bell 10 minutes later.

Two goals inside 10 minutes at the start of the second half saw Bell go 3-1 ahead with goals from Chris Catherall and Andrew Webb.

Danny Lloyd headed in from a corner to make it 3-2. Bell Sub Chris Bishop scored twice late on killing off the Malpas challenge.

Lloyd completed the scoring late on with a free kick to give a final score of 5-3.

Ironworks 1 Duddleston Heath 8

Duddleston Heath join Oswestry Bell in the semi-finals after they beat Ironworks 8-1.

Leigh Willis hit four, Stewart Williams, Damon Cheeseman, Jonathan Mitchell and Scott Penrose scored one apiece.

George Turner scored the Ironworks' consolation with virtually the last kick of the game.

Duddleston were awarded a second half penalty after Ironworks' 'keeper Simon Tinney brought down Craig Wildman, Wildman took the spot kick himself, with Tinney saving well.

Black Lion Colts 3 Athletic Market 3

The points were shared in this league match after the Colts and the Market finished all square.

Colts took the lead on 12 minutes through Owain Davies with a 20 yard shot from the outside of his right boot.

Laws hat-trick gets Waterloo back on track

STEVE Laws fired a hat-trick as Waterloo Rovers halted their recent wobble with a 5-2 home victory over Builth Wells to stand among the Spar Mid Wales League division one front runners.

After a surprise defeat against Llanfyllin, Waterloo followed by the 5-0 hammering at leaders Rhayader Town. Dale Roberts' men revived their fortunes with a win against battling Builth.

While recent signing Laws led the way with a treble, Will Pritchard and Ricky Litchfield also found the net as Rovers consolidated fourth spot.

Montgomery cranked up the title pressure in second spot with a 6-1 romp at Bow Street.

It's been a disappointing spell

for Clive McNamee's men with a combination of cup defeats and dropped points in the league, but they showed they won't give up the title chase without a fight after hitting the goal trail.

Neil Pryce continued his good start in Monty colours with a brace while there were also two goals from Tom Evans and singles from Gaz Bromley and a Andy Davies, his first goal for the club.

Llanidloes Town are also looking good in third after seeing off Berriew 2-0, the first defeat in four outings for new boss Mike Barton.

After a goalless first half, Llani took the lead when Stef Rowlands bagged his fourth goal in three games when heading in a Matthew Savage cross.

Jamie Breeze then added to his tally with a second, but Llani finished with 10 men after Karl Seliarts was sent off for two bookings for dissent.

At the other end of the table, Welshpool Town's problems continue after suffering a 4-2 loss at Dolgellau, the only side they have defeated this season when the sides met at Maesydd back in September.

Late leveller

Mark Bridge netted a brace for Dolgellau, while an own goal and Mike Parkes sealing Pool's fate.

Dyffryn Banw remain in basement danger after being pegged back by a late leveller in their 2-2 home draw with Llansantffraid Village.

It was the third game running that Banw dropped points late on, with Steve Tomkins and Mark Williams on target for the visitors while Ed Vaughan and Rhodri Davies responded for Banw.

Aberystwyth University remain just one point above basement side Welshpool after crashing 4-0 at fellow strugglers Tywyn Brynchrug whose Stephen Washbrook and Mark Edmonson both scored twice.

Four Crosses extended their lead at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division two to four points with a 3-0 home success over Llanfair United.

Second placed Knighton Town lost ground after being held 1-1 against visiting Machynlleth while

Kerry, in third, drew 1-1 at Llanfyllin whose Tahir Law bagged an equaliser.

Meifod remain at the foot of the table after slumping 4-1 at Talgarth while Presteigne lie just a few points above the basement places after crashing 5-1 at Aberdery.

Abermule made up ground on the leading pack after winning 3-2 at Bont.

Fixtures - Division One: Berriew v Bow Street, Carno v Waterloo, Llanidloes v Newbridge, Montgomery v Aberystwyth Uni, Welshpool v Tywyn Brynchrug. **Division Two:** Aberdery v Llandrindod Wells

E R Jenkins League Cup: Abermule v Machynlleth, Bont v Aberystwyth Uni, Welshpool v Tywyn Brynchrug. **Division Two:** Aberdery v Meifod, Llanfyllin v Rhosgoch, Presteigne v Knighton, Tregaron v Kerry.

Junior soccer scene

LLANMYNECH JUNIORS

UNDER 8

Shrewsbury Juniors 5

Llanymynech travelled to Shrewsbury and found the home team in very good form. The lads worked hard but in the end came away with only a consolation goal from man of the match Osian Williams.

UNDER 9

Llanymynech 6

Whitchurch Allport 2

The under 9 entertained Whitchurch Allport at Bryn Offa School, and played their best football of the season.

All members of the team contributed to a great performance with some fine free flowing passing which saw Llanymynech create a host of chances.

In particular man of the match Rhys Owen caused the visitors all sorts of trouble with creative runs and passing which saw the home team take a 4-1 half time lead through Will Morris, Joe Wilkinson, Kyle Kynaston and Huw Evans.

After the break Llanymynech continued to play some fine football and despite a number of good saves from the visiting keeper, the home team extended their lead to 6-1 with a second goal from Will Morris and final goal from Alfie Lloyd on his home debut.

The visitors to their credit continued to battle hard and got a deserved late consolation.

UNDER 10

Llanymynech 6

Frankwell Wanderers 0

In a solid performance from start to finish Llanymynech produced an excellent performance and grabbed another league victory.

Goals from Tomos Horn (2), Antoine Joohoo-McArdle, Henry Day (2) and man of the match Lloyd Edwards.

UNDER 11

Llanymynech 0 Shrewsbury

Up & Comers 7

Llanymynech entertained a very strong Up & Comers side and even though they worked hard were unable to get a foothold in the game.

George Edwards was awarded man of the match.

UNDER 12 DRAGONS

Llanymynech 1

Saha Galaxy 3

Llanymynech entertained Saha and played some good football however it was Saha who came away with the win.

Ben Oliver grabbed the goal for Llanymynech and the impressive Harri Matthews picked up another man of the match.

UNDER 12 LIONS

Market Drayton Tiger Colts 1

Llanymynech 5

Llanymynech travelled to Market Drayton which saw top versus third.

On a small pitch both sides found it difficult to find space and it took a fine strike from captain Jack Foulkes to break the deadlock. This was quickly followed by a 30-yard drive from the excellent Rhys Pain who moved into central midfield following an injury to Xavier Clarke.

The second half saw Market Drayton come hard at Llanymynech and the defence of Ewan James in the Llanymynech goal had to work hard to keep them out.

It was Llanymynech who got the scoring when Zico headed in from a corner.

This was quickly followed by a fourth when Harry Garthwaite lost his marker and fired away to fire into the roof of the net.

The home team pulled one back with 10 minutes to go but it was Llanymynech who completed the scoring when Zico of the match Rhys Pain curled in a free kick from the edge of the box.

UNDER 13

Llanymynech 10

Up & Comers Eagles 0

Llanymynech were hosts to Up & Comers Eagles and played some great football winning the game 10-0 with three goals and keeping a clean sheet.

Goals scorers were Nathan Buckley (2), Josh Biggs, James Ellis, Tom Ellis, Joe Kelly, Alex Hall (3) and own goal.

Alex Hall was man of the match following his hat-trick and superb display in the heart of Llanymynech's midfield.

UNDER 14

Gobowen 3 Llanymynech 3

Llanymynech travelled to local rivals Gobowen and in the first half a combination of good finishing from the home team and a lack of concentration from Llanymynech saw Gobowen take a two goal lead.

The second half saw two very determined teams playing some good competitive football but it was Llanymynech who took their chances and scored three goals edging themselves into a slender lead.

However Gobowen came back and grabbed an equaliser leading to a very tense and exciting final few minutes where Llanymynech had their chance but just couldn't force the ball over the line.

Llanymynech scores were Jack Luxton, Joe Roberts and man of the match Gareth Evans.

UNDER 15

Prees 3 Llanymynech 1

Llanymynech travelled to Prees and led for the majority of the game following a tight 1-1 draw's conversion of a Ryan Pugh Corner midway through the first half.

The visitors kept the lead until the final 10 minutes but a lack of concentration allowed the home team to score three times in the final few minutes which left Llanymynech empty handed.

UNDER 16

Market Drayton 4

Llanymynech 2

In an outstanding team performance which was a great advert for junior football Llanymynech came away defeated.

On the other day Llanymynech may well have won the game as they hit the woodwork on several occasions and were up against a home keeper at the top of his game.

The lads played with great maturity playing very attractive football from start to finish.

Iwan Matthews grabbed both goals including a penalty and the coaches awarded the man of the match to the whole team.

The referee passed comment after the game on what a credit both teams were to their retrospective clubs.

UNDER 11 GIRLS

Whitchurch 2

Llanymynech 7

A good away day for the girls scoring seven goals on their travels with only one against.

This was an excellent performance from the girls against a strong Whitchurch team. The goals came from Ffion Lewis (4), Beth Lewis (2) and Tash Powell.

UNDER 13 GIRLS

Llanymynech 11

Frankwell Wanderers 0

Frankwell turned up for this fixture with Llanymynech with only eight players and in a sporting gesture Llanymynech agreed to reduce the game to an eight aside contest.

Llanymynech quickly adapted to the new format and utilised the space well and with all the squad giving a good performance ended with an impressive win.

Goals came from Jess Sayers (3), Emma Beddoes, Awel Roberts, Cerys Richards (2), Tonicha Lloyd (3) and Jodie Carswell.

OSWESTRY BOYS' CLUB

UNDER 8 TIGERS

Oswestry 3 Saha Tigers 0

The Tigers played host to their namesakes Saha Tigers with an even first half seeing chances going begging and ending with no score.

The Tigers opened the scoring early in the second half through Elliot Bird's first goal of the season.

The Tigers pressure soon paid off and they were two up thanks to a goal from Oly Evans. The game was sealed when Jack Hughes scored late in the game sealing the win for the Tigers.

It was another excellent team performance with everyone playing their part in the win.

Goalscorers: Elliot Bird, Oly Evans, Jack Hughes. Man of the match Charlie Morris.

UNDER 9 COLTS

Oswestry Colts 0

Shrewsbury Juniors 3

Man of the match was Jack Coleman.

UNDER 10 DYNAMITES

Oswestry Dynamites 3

The Dynamites edged a five goal thriller against Meole Brace.

UNDER 11

Shrewsbury Juniors 0

Oswestry 4

Oswestry battled to a deserved point in an even contest.

UNDER 12

Whitchurch 3

Oswestry Wanderers 6

Oswestry travelled to Whitchurch and came away with a decent result with Brandon Rogers scoring a hat-trick.

Lewis Birch, Adam Davies (coming on as a sub) and Matty Cooper were also target.

UNDER 13

Oswestry 3 SAHA 0

Oswestry continued their good run of form with a workman like performance against a well organised Saha team.

Oswestry looked comfortable in the first half that saw Jonathan Jones complete a hat-trick while new boy Charlie Harding and Tom Evans caused Saha all sorts of problems.

The second half was a more even affair but Oswestry's keeper Sam Fitchett stood firm to earn yet another clean sheet.

Man of match: Tom Evans

UNDER 14

Oswestry 4

Shrewsbury Up & Comers 3

Two goals apiece from Tom Worswick and Louis Morris gave Oswestry a convincing win.

Missed chances nearly came back to haunt Oswestry when 4-1 up with five minutes remaining as the Harriers rallied with two late goals to level the field.

UNDER 15 COLTS

Oswestry 7 SAHA Hawks 1

Scorers for Oswestry were David Williams and Jack Price. Cameron Hughes, Luke Riam, Liam Jones and Alistair Jones.

Gilsfield bridge GAP to keep p impressive winning run



GUILSFIELD made it three wins in a row as they continued their Cymru Alliance revival in style with a fine 3-1 home verdict over title-chasing GAP Connah's Quay.

Will Thomas enhanced his productive season with two of the goals, the first from the penalty spot, while an own goal was their other contribution after Danny Barton's header had struck the post.

Connah's Quay pulled one back through James McIntosh early in the second period but the Guils were not to be denied as they eased their basement concerns with a stunning win.

They now head to basement strugglers Rhos on Saturday in upbeat mood, but boss Russell Cadwallader warned of the pitfalls after a super week which saw his side defeat Llangefni, Buckley Town and GAP Connah's Quay.

"If we lose on Saturday it will undo all the good work of beating Buckley and Connah's Quay so we've got to go there with the same attitude and show the same character," he said.

"To beat Connah's Quay was an outstanding performance as they are a very good side.

"We've got a bit more confidence now which winning games brings, and we're now playing a style which suits us with three at the back. When you defend well, it gives you a chance.

"Although we gave away a poor goal on Saturday, we looked solid with the three centre halves at the back, and always looked dangerous on the break.

"But I don't get carried away when we lose and I won't get carried away when we win as things can soon change."

Rebounding

Thomas continued his good form when converting a penalty after being fouled on the edge of the box.

And the Guils added a second before the break when Josh Evans crossed from the left, Barton's header hit the post before rebounding into the net off a defender.

GAP pulled one back early in the second period after the defence, for once, failed to clear, and the visitors then put the home side on the back foot for a time.

But with keeper Dave Littleford in assured form between the posts, they were not to be denied despite GAP powering long balls forward in a bid to save the game.

The Guils then gave themselves some breathing space when Thomas added his second with a well taken goal when firing in at the near post following a break down the left.

FOOTBALL

by John Bridgwater

Llanrhaeadr boss upbeat after defeat

AFTER being stunned by a last-gasp defeat, Llanrhaeadr bid to pick themselves up for Saturday's crunch Cymru Alliance basement showdown with visitors Llangefni.

A glance at the league table shows the importance of the clash after Llanrhaeadr were dragged into basement trouble following last weekend's 1-0 loss at Llandudno who snatched the points courtesy of a scrappy Ross Rule goal just two minutes from time.

Anglesey men Llangefni, despite languishing deep in trouble, make Saturday's trip in good heart after climbing off the foot of the table with last week's timely 3-0 win over basement strugglers Rhos - who themselves lost Llanrhaeadr the following week.

Boss Mario Iaquinta is under no illusions that the next fortnight will be vital for his team, but stresses that the battle for league survival has a long way to run whatever happens in those two games.

He was left to reflect on a big improvement from his side despite last week's agonising 1-0 loss at Llandudno.

Timely saves

"It was a sound performance, we got our pride back after the last few weeks when we've not played with the intensity required if we're going to stay in the league," he said.

"We had six or seven good chances, it was a cracking, end-to-end game against a side who are getting better, so to come away with nothing was very disappointing."

Despite chances at both ends, the encounter looked set for a goalless finish when, with just two minutes remaining, the ball bounced about in the Llanrhaeadr box, and a mis-hit shot fell for Rule who made no mistake.

The visitors enjoyed more of the game than they originally thought, seeing Ben White go close with a volley and Jamie Evans put an effort wide.

Evans was also denied by a couple of saves from the keeper and substitute Dale Wolverson, who replaced White who went off with an ankle injury, was also foiled. At the other end, visiting keeper Lee Davies also made a couple of timely saves to keep his side in the hunt.

Just when they looked set for a hard-earned point, Rule's late goal proved a late sickener for the visitors who planned a night out in Llandudno after the game.



Afan Lido's Leon Jeanne holds off the TNS defence

Picture by: Gareth Elms

'Second best' Saints slide with shock loss

Afan Lido 3 The New Saints 1

THE New Saints relinquished pole position in the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier after crashing to a shock defeat at the hands of struggling Afan Lido.

The first visit to the Aberavon ground in five years proved a disappointing affair for the one-time leaders as Lido turned the formbook on its head to boost their hopes of league survival.

And with title rivals Bangor defeating basement side Carmarthen 4-0, it meant that the Saints - who had looked in good shape at the top of the table just a week earlier - slipped into third spot.

Director of football Mike Davies offered no excuses after the below par showing, but insisted there was no panic.

"We were second best and got what we deserved, the 3-1 scoreline certainly didn't flatter them," he said.

"The way we played, we looked more like a team at the bottom of the league, not one at the top of it."

"Lido are tough to beat on their own ground, but we were sloppy and did not defend well, which is unlike us."

"We need to improve our performances and get back to the way we were playing a month ago. But it's not a disaster, it's just a blip, and we're still better placed than last season."

TNS had been looking for a swift riposte after their title ambitions had been undermined by the 4-3 home loss to rival challengers Bangor City in their previous outing.

And they could not have wished for a better start as New Zealand striker Greg Draper put them ahead after just 19 seconds with his 10th league goal of the season.

But lowly Lido - who had not scored two goals in any game all season - were in no mood to surrender as they stormed back to turn the game on its head and sentence the Saints to back-to-back defeats.

Tough nut

Despite their basement plight, Lido have proved a tough nut to crack on their home turf this season and the league newcomers again showed their resilience as they were back on terms through Carl Payne on 18 minutes.

Jonathan Hood put the hosts in front just before half-time, prompting a double substitution for the visitors early in the second half as Nicky Ward and Matty Williams were thrown into the fray.

But it failed to produce a goal and Lido's remarkable night was complete as Payne added his second and his side's third goal on 57 minutes - a lead they never looked likely to relinquish to claim their biggest scalp of the season.

Within five minutes by Ollie Jackson. However, neither side was able to find the net again leaving Llanfair to return home as they arrived, leading the table.

Waterloo Colts were edged out 4-3 at home to Newtown Wanderers, two goals from James Watkins keeping them in the hunt and Frankie Jones getting the other. Brett McBride bagged a double for Newtown.

Meanwhile, a brace from Chris Barker helped Llandrinio to a 2-0 home success over Trefonen in the first round of the Llanidloes Town League Cup.

Six of the best keeps Guils in hunt

James Martin got two of the Llanrhaeadr replies, Bryn Jones firing the first from the penalty spot.

Llanrhaeadr reserves moved fourth on goal difference after seeing off Llanidloes reserves 4-0 through a Mike Roberts double and other strikes by Boris Martinez and Joe Makinson.

Four Crosses reserves went joint top of the Mitsubishi division two with a slender 1-0 win at Abermule reserves.

They are now level with leaders Llanfair reserves who were held 1-1 at Morda reserves.

Dayfild Williams headed the visitors into a second half lead which was wiped

out within five minutes by Ollie Jackson. However, neither side was able to find the net again leaving Llanfair to return home as they arrived, leading the table.

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Tennis

Matthew joins
Criftins winners
Page 85

Football

Thomas hits two
for flying Guils
Page 87Triathlete
Kershaw
heading
for Spain
training

UP AND coming athlete Jimmy Kershaw has received a tremendous accolade after being selected to train with the Olympic triathlon talent squad next month.

The 15-year-old, who attends Marches School in Oswestry, is part of the West Midland Triathlon Academy.

And his recent efforts now see him head for a training week in Spain from 17-23 December with the country's top teenage talent between the ages of 15-19.

"It's a terrific opportunity and who knows what it will lead to," said father Neath Kershaw.

He will be training with all the top teenage triathletes in the country between the ages of 15 to 19 which is a great opportunity for him as he knocks on the door for regular selection for the squad.

Jimmy, who lives in Tetchill near Ellesmere, trains with the Oswestry Olympians running and triathlon club, while he also swims and trains with the Ellesmere College Titans and cycles with the Mid Shropshire wheelers in Shrewsbury and runs with the Colin Lancaster running group at Shrewsbury.

Success

He started out as a swimmer, before turning his attention to the tough sport of triathlon three years ago with plenty of success.

The youngster has enjoyed plenty of success in the sport, finishing second in the West Midland Triathlon series for his age group this year and was also runner-up in the Aquathon series in the West Midlands.

He is ranked No2 in the West Midlands for the sport for 15-16 year-olds, and is in the top 10 nationally for under-15s.

He will be joined in Spain by three other up and coming triathletes from the region.

● Oswestry's Joe Morris led the way in the under-17 boys race in the Shropshire Cross Country League at Much Wenlock.

This is the most open category in the league, with all the three races this season being won by three different runners.

On this occasion it was Joe's club-mate and the winner at Oswestry, Jimmy Kershaw, who held on for second from the winner of the first race, Josh Burrows of Telford AC.

Boxer Sinden's battling draw

WELSHPOOL boxer Warren Sinden was advised to pull out of his professional debut in Preston on Saturday night, after his opponent weighed in a whopping eight pounds over the weight.

Around 120 Welshpool fans travelled to the Lava Night-club in Preston to watch the 22-year-old's first fight, and while songs of "there's only one Warren Sinden" reverberated off the venue's walls, Warren was facing a crisis backstage.

Experienced opponent Sammy Mac of Lincoln was fined part of his purse for not making the weight, but it meant that an anxious decision had to be made by the former champion of the amateur ring.

"My trainer Johnny Royce advised me not to fight," said Warren. "However I was not prepared to let 113 travelling

Welshpool fans down. They had paid a lot of money and come a very long way to see me fight. So a fight is what I wanted them to see!"

"The support was amazing. They never stopped singing and everyone from my training camp commented on the support. I really can't thank the fans enough. Every single one of them was fantastic."

Southpaw

Despite the weight difference, Warren went on to draw the fight but had to overcome yet another hurdle along the way.

"As the first round started I noticed he was boxing as a southpaw ('left handed') and not an orthodox which he is registered with the British Boxing Board of Control as.

"This is unfair as we would have prepared for a southpaw if we had known." Sinden made his fast hands count and had his fans on their feet with some quick combinations, but was gradually sucked into a slug fest by his opponent whose big shots were breaching his defence.

"When the draw was announced I was heartbroken, because we felt we had it by a round," he said. "But from here, it's back into the gym to work on tightening up my defence. I'm very confident of getting the win next time out having got a draw on my first pro fight to someone with such an advantage over me as Sammy had."

"On the night I only weighed 10st13lbs so I'm only 3lbs off welter weight which has always been realistic goal. My trainer was happy with the performance and knows there is more to come."

Welshpool
boosted as
trio of new
faces in to
steady ship

STRUGGLING Welshpool Town have bolstered their squad with a couple of new signings - and another is on the way.

Matthew Stokes, a mid-fielder from Caersws, has signed along with 16-year-old local striker Ashley Pedrini while another youngster, a left footed defender from the TNS Academy, is also set to join.

The arrival of the trio will be a timely boost, with two certain to feature in Saturday's home clash with Tywyn as the Lillywhites battle to climb off the foot of the table.

They continue to prop up the table after last weekend's 4-2 loss at Dolgellau, who avenged a defeat earlier in the season at Maesdyre.

"We conceded some silly goals which proved costly," said boss Dave Jones.

"But we can take positives from the fact we created more chances than in any other game."

It's a vital spell for Pool with home games against Dyffryn Banw and Newbridge in the coming weeks.

Last Saturday, they started well enough against Dolgellau in an even first 20 minutes but some slack defending allowed the home forward to nip and open the scoring before Mark Bloom headed into his own net for the hosts' second goal.

Pool rallied with Mike Cockram reducing the arrears with a penalty, and they were back on terms after the break, Andy Smith levelling when the keeper should have done better.

The visitors were stung by a soft goal with 15 minutes remaining after being caught napping from a short corner, before Dolgellau wrapped up the points two minutes from time.

Even then, Welshpool had their chances, twice hitting the woodwork late on.

Four Crosses, flying high at the top of the SPAR MID WALES LEAGUE division two, have signed highly-rated keeper Darren Powell from Cymru Alliance side Llanrhadr.

Powell arrives with Four Crosses in good shape at the top of the table after last week's 3-0 win over title rivals Llanfair United.

It has been a terrific campaign for Four Crosses whose boss Nick Poppyk was the second division manager of the month for October.

SEARCH ON AFTER
DAVIES STUNNER

By John Bridgwater

THE New Saints have launched their hunt for a successor to director of football Mike Davies who this week sensationally quit the Welsh Premier club after 18 months in charge.

Head coach Carl Darlington and player coach Scott Ruscoe will take over the temporary reins for tomorrow night's home clash with Airbus UK Broughton before the vacancy is filled.

Despite the sudden nature of his departure, 32-year-old Davies stressed that his decision had no connection to recent results, which have seen TNS lose successive games to Bangor City and Afan Lido to relinquish pole position.

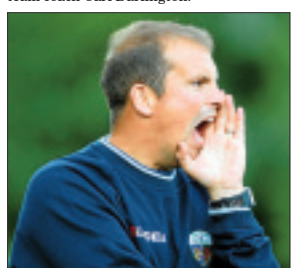
Having recently become a father, he said it was a tough decision to step down from the Oswestry club after enjoying plenty of highs during his time at Park Hall.

"I think I can go with my head held high," said Davies who took over management responsibilities at the club when Andy Cale also resigned at the end of April 2010.

"I have led the club to runners-up spot in the Welsh Premier, the first-ever European victories against Bohemians and Cliftonville, and two League Cups.

"But after a lot of thought I have decided to step down. I would like to thank Mike Harris (chairman) for giving me this opportunity which I have thoroughly enjoyed and wish the club all the best for the future."

The departure of Davies comes despite winning the league's first two monthly managerial awards of the season along with first team coach Carl Darlington.



Mike Davies has quit as TNS boss.

After accepting Davies' resignation, chairman Mike Harris said: "Mike has made a valuable contribution to the success of the club during his tenure and the club wishes him and his family well for the future."

The club will advertise for the post of Director of Football, with the successful candidate working alongside first team head coach Carl Darlington, assisting with the day to day coaching of the first team squad as well as being responsible for the management and co-ordination of the clubs academy programme.

"In the interim period first team assistant coach Scott Ruscoe, who is currently undertaking his UEFA A Licence Coaching qualification, will take on responsibility for the role as a caretaker capacity."

Davies has been involved in player development at TNS for several seasons and was mentored by Cale following the head coach's return to the club for a third time in March 2008, following the departure of Ken McKenna.

In April 2011, he was appointed director of football with Darlington as first team manager to meet the requirements of the European licence.

Management teeth

As a player, Davies turned down a YTS with Shrewsbury Town to continue education which led to two seasons with Wales under-18s Schoolboys whilst playing for Shrewsbury around school work.

He graduated from UWIC in 2001 with a degree in Sport and Development having played in the Welsh Premier for the University side, and cut his management teeth as Darren Ryan's assistant at Newtown in 2007/8.

With the lure of European football, the job is sure to be an attractive proposition for potential candidates.

After two defeats, tomorrow's home clash with Airbus UK has assumed massive importance as the Saints bid to reclaim pole position after being ousted from the top.

● Tomorrow's game will have an interested observer with Welsh boss Gary Speed present to speak to invited guests, sponsors and season ticket holders in a question and answer session alongside the FAW's Head of PR Ian Gwyn Hughes.

A signed Wales shirt and football will also be raffled during the evening with proceeds going towards the cost of running the club's football academy.



Welshpool on the attack in their 10-7 victory over Benllech to leap clear of the basement pack in rugby's Welsh League division three (north). Report see page 85.

Jack's hoping to
be a Tractor Boy

YOUNG goalkeeper Jack Perry, who attends The New Saints academy, has been attracting plenty of interest from Championship club Ipswich Town.

The 14-year-old, from Bishop's Castle, has impressed scouts and spent the half term holiday at the Portman Road club and played for the East Anglian team in a 5-2 friendly win over Southend United.

Perry was first noticed in the summer when playing for TNS in the UMBRO Trophy at Keele.

He is one of a number of Castle youngsters who have impressed League clubs in recent times, with Sam Phillips, from the club's under-13 team, joining the Wolves Academy on a two-year contract.

Will Evans, who is a member of the under-12s, is with the Shrewsbury Town Academy, initially on a 12-month term.

Keeper in
Pool tonic

WELSHPOOL ladies could take heart from a plucky display despite suffering their third defeat in the North Wales League division one when going down 4-2 at home to higher ranked Dysynni.

It was always going to prove a tricky clash against a side above them in the table but Pool, without their regular keeper, battled throughout with Kelly Jones on target twice, her first giving the Mid Wales side the lead.

Rhian Davies returns in goal for Saturday's home clash with local rivals Newtown (12.30pm).

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